

THE ROOTS OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS
AT FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS
IN 1866 AND AGAIN IN 1931-1940

A thesis presented to the Faculty of the U.S. Army
Command and General Staff College in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree

MASTER OF MILITARY ART AND SCIENCE

by

KIM DENISE INGRAM, LCDR, USN

B.S. Southern Illinois, University, Carbondale, Illinois, 1983

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

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PREFACE

My interest in the Buffalo Soldiers began with a personal inquiry in 1993 about the role Negroes have played in the making of military history. Through casual readings and purchasing of African American Art, I discovered that four Negro regiments were organized after the Civil War and that these soldiers were the first Negroes to be allowed to join the Regular Army. Further, two of the four regiments, the Ninth and Tenth, were Cavalry, the mobile troops who contributed so much to the opening of the West.

Approximately a year after learning of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries, I was ordered to attend the Command and General Staff College (CGSC), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon arrival, I immediately noticed and visited the Buffalo Soldier Monument. At this point, I had decided to seek a Masters Degree in Military Art and Science, but had not yet chosen a thesis topic. The visit to the Buffalo Soldiers Monument stirred in me a strong desire to learn more about these heroic men.

In 1866, Fort Leavenworth was chosen as the site to organize the Tenth Cavalry Regiment, and 126 years later, as the site for the renowned Buffalo Soldier Monument. In my preliminary research, I discovered that historical records were not clear on the particular significance of Fort Leavenworth to all of the Buffalo Soldiers and their history of wideranging activity. Therefore, I decided to dedicate my thesis to explaining the "Roots of the Buffalo Soldiers" at Fort Leavenworth and what the service of these patriots, their monument and the fort mean to future generations of Americans.

Many Buffalo Soldiers of the Tenth Cavalry reside in the Leavenworth and Kansas City area today. Several of these soldiers, along with members of the Leavenworth community, are active in educating people about the Buffalo Soldiers role in the Army. This thesis provides an additional source for that education about the Buffalo Soldiers' lives and their significant contributions to the U.S. Army and society. Their selfless service and reputations as heroic combat veterans have contributed significantly to the recognition of African Americans as valuable members of the U.S. military. I am honored to have had the opportunity to conduct research on the lives of the Buffalo Soldiers while stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. I hope that my work will help keep their legacy alive.

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In the research and writing of this thesis, I am indebted to many people.

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ABSTRACT

BUFFALO SOLDIERS: THE ROOTS OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS AT FORT LEAVENWORTH IN 1866 AND AGAIN IN 1931-1940, LCDR Kim Denise Ingram, U.S. Navy, 77 pages.

This study documents the roots of the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in 1866 and again in 1931-1940. The study's focus is on the mission of Fort Leavenworth and its relationship to the Buffalo Soldiers, garrison life for the Buffalo Soldiers while assigned at Fort Leavenworth from 1931-1940, and the reason why Fort Leavenworth was chosen as the site of the renowned Buffalo Soldier monument.

An overview of the Army's mission in the West and Fort Leavenworth's role provide the evidence for the Tenth Cavalry's assignment to Fort Leavenworth. This study summarizes their combat and non combat operations, garrison life at Fort Leavenworth in the 1930s and 1940s, recreation and entertainment activities, employment opportunities, and encounters with discrimination.

As a result of the loyal service, perseverance, and contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers who served in the Tenth Cavalry, Negroes have attained respect and recognition for their contributions to the U.S Armed Forces. Additionally, the Buffalo Soldiers clearly set the stage for the advancement of Negroes in the Armed Forces that continues today. .

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The Negro's military experience began in the American Revolutionary War. Their patriotic and martial spirit held fast through the War of 1812 in which they served with the Army and Navy, as well as during the Civil War. In the aftermath of these wars came emancipation and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, granting Negroes freedom from slavery, equal protection of the law, and (for the Negro male) the right to vote. However, in 1865 Negroes were still not allowed to enlist in the Regular Army.

After the Civil War, the Army was faced with demobilization and reorganization. In the West, however, the Army was assigned the considerable tasks of patrolling the Mexican border to confront the threat posed by Emperor Maximilian and the French forces of Napoleon III in Mexico and suppressing Indian uprisings. It was also responsible for restoring order on the Western frontier, garrisoning the post along the Canadian border, and performing training and ceremonial duties in the eastern cities. In the South, the Army was assigned a mission of occupation of the Southern States and the supervision of Reconstruction.¹

With the constant rate of discharges and white enlistments dropping, the Army did not have enough manpower to meet its missions. Furthermore, by the Reorganization Act of 1866, Congress increased the Army's force structure from thirty to sixty regiments.² Congress also

authorized the formation of six Negro regiments: two cavalry, the Ninth and Tenth; and four infantry, the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forty-first.³ A subsequent Army reorganization in the spring of 1869 consolidated the four Negro infantry regiments into two, the Twenty-fourth and the Twenty-fifth Infantry. The two regiments of Cavalry, the Ninth and Tenth, retained their original designations.⁴

The Reorganization Act marked the first time Negroes were allowed to join the regular Army and opened a new chapter in American military history. Though still disenfranchised, Negroes and former slaves now had an opportunity to perform a major role in Army operations on the frontier. The Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments played a vital role in opening new territory to settlement throughout the Western frontier, along the Rio Grande, in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, and the Dakotas. Their primary mission was to protect settlers from attacks by warring Indian tribes. The Ninth and Tenth were also tasked with settling disputes between cattlemen and settlers, protecting stage and railway lines, and guarding frontiersmen against bandits, cattle rustlers, bootleggers, trespassers and Mexican revolutionaries.⁵ Many civil officials, particularly in Texas and Mexico could not have survived without the assistance of the Buffalo Soldiers in opening new roads, mapping vast areas of uncharted country and pinpointing the location of water for traveling settlers. The Buffalo Soldiers were instrumental in achieving stability in the local towns and cities.⁶

It was on the frontier that the Tenth Cavalry received their nickname "Buffalo Soldiers." Indians of the plains likened their hair to that of the buffalo. The Tenth Cavalry accepted the title with pride, later including a buffalo on their regimental crest (see Figure 1).

Subsequently, the Ninth Cavalry also adopted the name "Buffalo Soldiers" as a badge of honor.⁷ Although the numerous regiments of black soldiers, now known as Buffalo Soldiers, served with distinction throughout the West, Fort Leavenworth and its own Tenth Cavalry Regiment have assumed a prominent position in commemoration and preservation of their legacy.

The Tenth Cavalry was organized at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on 22 September 1866, under the command of Colonel Benjamin Grierson. In August 1867, the Tenth was transferred to Fort Riley, Kansas. However, just a few days before leaving Fort Leavenworth, the Tenth experienced their first engagement. Troop I, under Captain George A. Armes, with thirty-four men and two officers, fought 300 Indians near Saline River, forty miles northeast of Fort Hays, Kansas. The fight lasted six hours before the outnumbered soldiers retreated, but only after inflicting heavy losses on the Indians. Captain Armes was wounded and Sergeant William Christy was the first member of the regiment to die in action.⁸ The headquarters remained at Fort Riley until April 1868. The troops were distributed between Kansas and Indian Territory and were employed in the perfection of their drill and discipline, and in the protection of the Union Pacific Railroad westward settlement. From Fort Riley the headquarters was moved to Fort Gibson. By this time the Indians had brought on a war. General Phil Sheridan determined that the Indians needed to be put and kept on reservations, or if that could not be done, to show them that winter weather would be relentless. The winter campaign of 1867-1868, resulted in the destruction of Black Kettle's band of Cheyennes, the worst lot of Indians in the territory. In an official farewell to the Officers and Soldiers of the Tenth U.S. Cavalry Brevet Brigadier General W. H. Penrose,

who commanded men of the Tenth during the winter campaign of 1868 stated in part:

You started from this post on an important mission under many disadvantages. Your horses were in poor condition, and you were to march, without forage, to penetrate a raw, and before unknown, country. Hardly had you started when you encountered severe storms of rain and snow, accompanied by intense cold; you were without suitable and necessary shelter for such inclement weather; your horses perished day by day, you yourselves suffering from intense cold, many with frostbitten hands and feet; but through these hardships and difficulties you pushed nobly on, undaunted, undismayed, anxious to meet the enemy.

Eight troops of the regiment had scarcely been out of the saddle and the winter had been a harsh one. Many of the men had scurvy which the surgeon at Fort Wallace attributed to "hardships and privations of arduous winter scouts which were frequent with often little time intervening for purposes of recuperation . . . and a monotonous pork diet." The regimental headquarters remained at Fort Gibson until 31 March 1869, then they were moved to Camp Wichita, where they arrived on 12 April 1869. Camp Wichita was an old Indian village selected by General Sheridan as a site for a military post. The Tenth Cavalry was ordered there to establish and build the new post. In August 1869, the post was given the name of Fort Sill. The Tenth's duty was now that of an army of occupation, to hold the country from which the Indians had been expelled and to keep the Indians within the bounds of which they were assigned. During their stay at Fort Sill eleven troops were usually assigned to headquarters. The month rate of desertion fell from seven to three; the rate of discharge by court-martial from 2.5 to 1.5. The regiment attested the advantage of discipline to having large commands and varied and interesting occupations for the troops. The regimental headquarters remained at Fort Sill until 27 March 1875. In April 1875, regimental headquarters was established at Fort Concho, Texas.

The Tenth pursued Indian raiding parties that had attacked American settlers, then recrossed the Rio Grande for safety in Mexico. In violation of the law, the Tenth crossed the Mexican border, but met with little success, finding only abandoned camps.¹⁰ A band of Apaches led by Chief Victorio also posed a threat of Indian hostilities. From 10 July to 11 August 1880, the Tenth chased Victorio's men until they fled deep into Mexico. When they returned to Texas, Victorio's troops were outfought, outmaneuvered and denied access to food and water by the Tenth Cavalry. Colonel Grierson led the sixty-five-mile chase which drove Victorio across the border, never to return to the United States. On 14 October 1880, Victorio was killed by Mexican soldiers. Although the Mexican soldiers caused his death, it was the Tenth Cavalry that curtailed his activities on American soil and limited his space of maneuver.¹¹ In reference to this campaign, General E. O. C. Ord wrote in his 1880 annual report to the Secretary of War:

I trust that the services of the troops engaged will meet with that recognition which such earnest and zealous efforts in the line of duty deserve. They are entitled to more than commendation . . . In this connection I beg to invite attention to the long and severe service of the Tenth Cavalry, in the field and at remote frontier stations, in this department. It is not time that it should have relief by a change to some more favored district of the country?¹²

As there were still more Apaches to fight, General Sheridan did not agree with this request, and the Tenth stayed five more years on the Texas frontier. In the spring of 1885, the Tenth moved westward along the Mexican border into Arizona. Here, they fought against the famous chiefs, Geronimo, the Kid, Mangus, Cochise, Alchise, Aklenni, Natsin, and Eskilite. Their bands killed thousands of people on the plains and in the canyons of Arizona."¹³ As a result, the Tenth was tasked with bringing this territory and the marauding Indians under control. On 3 May 1886, Troop K came upon

Geronimo's men in the Pinto Mountains, the Indians concentrating heavy fire on the troops. Corporal Winfield Scott was wounded and under fire; Lieutenant Powhattan H. Clarke rescued him. The campaign lasted sixteen months. By 1890 the Indians were settling down to farming and reservation life. Consequently the Tenth modernized and prepared itself for future assignments. On 11 April 1898, war broke out between Spain and the United States, and the Tenth was included in the plans for the invasion of Cuba. On 17 June 1898, they embarked for Cuba on two commercial ships.¹⁴ Upon arrival, the Tenth was armed with semi-automatic weapons and moved into combat positions, flanked on both sides by Theodore Roosevelt's "Rough Riders." The Tenth provided covering fires while the Rough Riders attacked Spanish positions. During the assault, the Rough Riders were trapped by the Cubans. Quick to their rescue, the Tenth pinned down the Cubans with effective fire. "Several of the men rushed forward, knocked down an improvised enemy fort, cut barbed wire barriers and left an opening for the volunteers, who then rushed through and routed the Spaniards firing from there."¹⁵ When the Tenth reached the top of Las Guasimas heights, only dead and dying Spaniards were found; the rest had fled toward Santiago. One soldier of the Rough Riders stated that:

If it had not been for the Negro Cavalry, the Rough Riders would have been exterminated. I am not a Negro lover. My father fought with Mosby's Rangers, and I was born in the South, but the Negroes saved the fight, and the day will come General Shafter will give them credit for their bravery.¹⁶

Following the Las Guasimas attack, the Tenth participated in a coordinated attack with the Twenty-Fourth Infantry Regiment. Their objective was to seize the main enemy fortification on San Juan Hill. As they approached the hill they were joined by infantry and cavalry, both black and white. "About half way up the slope the colors of the Third were seen to stop and

fall, the color bearer sinking to the ground, shot through the body; Sergeant George Berry, color bearer of the Tenth, dashed over to where the colors lay, raised them high, and waving both flags, planted them on the crest side by side."¹⁷ Colonel Teddy Roosevelt described the white soldiers' reactions to the Negro cavalry's performance by stating that "I don't think that any Rough Rider will ever forget the tie that binds us to the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry."¹⁸ On 12 August 1898 the armistice was signed ending the war. Spanish sovereignty over Cuba was relinquished, and the rest of the Spanish West Indies was surrendered to the United States.¹⁹ The Tenth returned to the United States as heroes. After a short stay in Huntsville, Alabama, the Tenth made its headquarters in Fort Robinson, Nebraska in 1902.

From 1907 until 1909 the Tenth was stationed in Manila, Philippines. The Tenth returned to the United States in 1909 and was assigned the mission of patrolling and protecting American property along the Mexican border. During this assignment, they became involved in General John J. Pershing's Punitive Expedition and subsequent hunt for Poncho Villa, a response to a bloody raid on the town of Columbus, New Mexico, where a large party of bandits led by Poncho Villa killed several Americans. After the Punitive Expedition, the Tenth continued to carry out security missions on the Mexican border.²⁰ The last so-called Indian battle was fought against Yaquis Indians in 1918.²¹

The Tenth remained on the southwest border during World War I, and until 1931, when its squadrons were dispersed to support Army training at West Point, New York, Fort Meyer, Virginia, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The regiment reassembled in 1941 at Fort Riley, Kansas. During World War II the Tenth was again deactivated and the men were distributed among

service units.²² In 1950, the Tenth was redesignated as the 510th Tank Battalion and activated at Camp Polk, Louisiana, and subsequently transferred to West Germany in 1952. In 1958, the Tenth was reorganized and redesignated again as the Tenth Cavalry at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

In the Vietnam era, the 1st Squadron fought with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam; the 2d Squadron served as the reconnaissance unit with the Seventh Infantry Division; and the 3d Squadron performed reconnaissance missions for the 77th Infantry Division in the Army Reserve. In 1977, the 3d Squadron was activated as an armor battalion in the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. In June 1987, the Tenth was again reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System and assigned to the 194th Armored Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky.²³

The spirit and perseverance that the Buffalo Soldiers exhibited throughout their twenty-four years of service significantly contributed to Negroes being considered as an essential part of the U.S. Military. The Tenth experienced desertion, but at the lowest rate in the Army; major and minor infractions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) were about the same as any other regiment on the frontier. Chronic alcoholism, a real concern in most regiments, was virtually unheard of among the Buffalo Soldiers.²⁴ Their actions and contributions in helping the United States achieve its strategic objective of settling the West set the stage for other Negroes to be allowed to enlist and eventually obtain commissions in the U.S. Armed Forces. Their legacy and contribution to American society and the Army are studied and commemorated at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Although the service of the Buffalo Soldiers spanned great time and space, Fort Leavenworth became the site of their memorial.

This thesis examines the military and political issues that influenced Army policy regarding the assignment of the Tenth Cavalry to Fort Leavenworth. It also discusses their lives at Fort Leavenworth and their relationship with the local community. Places of key occupation by the Buffalo Soldiers are also identified. This thesis will also examine the significance of the Buffalo Soldiers' monument and other exhibits at Fort Leavenworth, to the continuing study and commemoration of the Buffalo Soldiers. Although the Buffalo Soldiers' history has been extensively chronicled, it is not immediately clear why Fort Leavenworth assumed the salient position it enjoys today, and why, in 1992, it was selected as the site of the renowned Buffalo Soldier Monument. This thesis draws conclusions based on the mission of Fort Leavenworth, the formation of the Tenth Cavalry at Fort Leavenworth, their later return to Fort Leavenworth, and the historical significance of Fort Leavenworth to the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Endnotes

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CHAPTER TWO

FORT LEAVENWORTH A CHOSEN SITE FOR ORGANIZATION

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, was chosen as one of the six locations of which an equal number of Negro regiments of the regular Army would be organized, and the Tenth Cavalry was posted there. In September 1866, Fort Leavenworth was strategically located because of the swirl of political, social, and economic issues that affected the country at that time. The fort was at a hub of a viable transportation route for trading goods with Mexico, for protecting American settlers traveling west, and for monitoring social conditions among the Mexicans, Americans, and Indians on the western frontier.

Fort Leavenworth was established on 19 September 1827 for the protection of American traders traveling through Indian territory and to preserve peace among Indian tribes.¹ The Mexican Revolution of 1821 enabled Mexico and the United States to trade goods for the first time and, consequently, American traders began traveling through Indian lands to reach Mexico.² Although a treaty between the U.S. Government and the dominant indigenous group the Great Osage Nation had been established, traders were frequently attacked by hostile Indians. These attacks caused Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri to request that a fort be built on the Arkansas River along the main trade route in order to provide protection.³ This location, in addition to the political, social, and economic issues, had a profound impact on determining Fort Leavenworth's mission. The fort

needed to be near the starting point of the Santa Fe Trail in order to provide protection for the traders. As such, the Adjutant General's Office issued Order Number 14, dated 7 March 1827, which read in part:

Colonel Leavenworth of the 3d Infantry, with four companies of his regiment will ascend the Missouri and when he reaches a point on its left bank near the mouth of Little Platte river and within a range of twenty miles above or below its confluence, he will select such position as in his judgement is best calculated for the site of a permanent cantonment. The spot being chosen, he will then construct with the troops of his command comfortable, though temporary quarters sufficient for the accommodation of four companies. This movement will be made as early as the convenience of the service will permit.⁴

When Colonel Henry B. Leavenworth arrived at the designated site, he examined the area and determined that the location on the east bank of the river was often flooded and subjected to lowland diseases. Therefore, he proceeded up river approximately twenty miles and located a site on the west bank of the Missouri River. He justified this location based on it being elevated terrain, dry, and conducive to good health.⁵ Army Order No. 56, dated 16 September 1927, approved Colonel Leavenworth's selection and the outpost was designated Cantonment Leavenworth.⁶ In 1832 the name was changed to Fort Leavenworth.⁷

Due to the location, Fort Leavenworth Army units were able to provide escort services and protection for traders along the Santa Fe Trail. Access to the Missouri River allowed steamboats to deliver war materials to the Fort's docks and provided a central point for settlers to pick up their supplies.⁸ The location of Fort Leavenworth provided the best terrain and healthiest location to quarter troops. It also was a premier center to consolidate and acquire logistics and the starting point for the protection of settlers moving west. Additionally, it played a vital role in assisting the U.S. Army in achieving the overarching strategic goal of settling the West.

Political concerns in the East about Indian hostilities resulted in the Indian Removal Act of 1833, which forced several eastern Indian tribes to move west to the region of current Oklahoma. Consequently, Fort Leavenworth assumed an important role in maintaining peace between the displaced Indian tribes and American traders. In 1834, the Army began experimenting with cavalry tactics in campaigns to control hostile Indians. This effort included assignment of the 1st Dragoons to Fort Leavenworth, the first cavalry unit at the post.⁹

The 1st Dragoons were instrumental in forcing hostile Indian tribes to talk with U.S. Army representatives. These talks were held in order to gain promises from the Indians that they would leave the roads open to allow unimpeded migration westward and to define boundaries between different tribes to preclude tribal fighting. Subsequently, treaties were signed, but were quickly violated; and hostilities among the tribes and against the settlers started again. However, the 1st Dragoons were again successful in controlling Indians. Their success was a significant contribution to the mission of the Army and set a precedent for other cavalry units, including the Tenth, which followed.

The health of the troops was a major social concern for early inhabitants of Fort Leavenworth. When Colonel Leavenworth selected the site for the fort, his decision had been based on health concerns, knowing that the location would affect the welfare of his troops and their ability to accomplish their mission. Hordes of insects inhabiting the dense, rotting vegetation along the river's edge led to many soldiers falling sick with malaria.¹⁰

Conditions became so bad at Fort Leavenworth that on 25 March 1829 the Adjutant General's Office issued General Order Number 14 which directed

that the entire command at Cantonment Leavenworth be withdrawn to Jefferson Barracks in Saint Louis, Missouri, in May 1829. The post remained empty until the following fall.¹¹ The 6th Infantry reoccupied the fort on 8 November 1829, and the troops resumed the mission of protecting traders. This was the only time since its establishment that Fort Leavenworth was closed.¹²

Economics had a great impact on the Army's mission at Fort Leavenworth. First, the Mexican Revolution of 1821 had a significant impact on the United States economic position in the West. It was not until this date that Mexico was allowed to trade with the United States, even though prior to this, both countries knew that active trade would offer significant benefits. Mexico had raw material that would facilitate American expansion. The United States had resources of which Mexico had only a limited supply.¹³ This mutually beneficial relationship would dictate Fort Leavenworth's mission of protecting trade between the two countries for many years. The U.S. Government realized that the protection of traders traveling west was directly related to the development of the Army on the western frontier and the movement of still more Americans to the west.

The Mexican War of 1846-1848 brought strategic importance to Fort Leavenworth, and consequently, national attention to the once isolated post. The fort became a major supply and replacement depot for forces deploying to Mexico and California. Additionally, the fort served as a departure point for three major expeditions that included those which conquered Santa Fe and the Mexican state of Chihuahua and served as an army of occupation in New Mexico.¹⁴ The fort provided logistical support to military expeditions and, at the same time, created a decent social

environment for its inhabitants and enhanced trade between Mexico and the United States.

Fort Leavenworth was the primary logistic support site not only for military expeditions, but for most settlers moving west. Consequently, Fort Leavenworth became well known to anyone moving or wanting to move westward. The military expeditions for which it served as a departure point provided political impetus for allowing the movement of more Americans westward under military protection. Most, if not all, of their escort was gathered at Fort Leavenworth.

Ten years after the Mexican War, Fort Leavenworth found itself involved in another war, this time with Brigham Young's Mormons in Utah. Brigham Young was the Governor of the Utah Territory, Superintendent of Indian affairs, and head of the Church of Latter Day Saints. As members of his congregation moved westward in search of land, they incited Indian uprisings, thereby threatening the lives of white settlers. As a result, President James Buchanan became concerned about their behavior and the possibility of conflict of interest among Governor Young's many roles. As such, the President decided to relieve Young of his duties and ordered a military force be organized at Fort Leavenworth to enforce administration policies and to insure the safe installation of a new governor. Fortunately, Young relinquished his claim to governorship peacefully without the need of military force, and the Mormons eventually stopped aggravating the Indians. However, a military force remained in Utah for peacekeeping purposes throughout 1858. With the Mexicans and Mormons subdued, the Indians temporarily pacified, the fort could once again direct its attention to exploration and administration of newly acquired territory. However, this peaceful mission was not to last long. Violence,

fomented among pro- and anti-slavery factions in Kansas, reached its peak in 1856; and Fort Leavenworth was tasked with assisting and protecting authorities in carrying out their duties.¹⁵

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Fort Leavenworth played an important but unexciting role. Threatened only once by the Confederate Army in 1864, troops headquartered at Fort Leavenworth set up a last-ditch effort to defend Kansas City and Leavenworth, an effort which proved to be unnecessary, as Major General Sterling Price's invading Confederates were defeated by Major General Samuel R. Curtis at the battle of Westport, aided by troops from the Department of Missouri.¹⁶

The economic growth of the town of Leavenworth was directly dependent upon its nearness to the fort. In support of the city's economy, Fort Leavenworth provided a ready market for stock, grain, and goods raised or produced in and around the city. The fort also allowed access to military roads and provided government contracts to local businesses. As a result of these successful engagements, Leavenworth turned into a major transshipping point on the frontier. Additionally, the Army gave most of its business of hauling military goods to Russell, Major, and Waddel, a freighting outfit located in Leavenworth. Consequently, employment opportunities increased and the city's economy prospered. In turn, the city provided diversions which enhanced the morale and welfare for troops assigned to Fort Leavenworth including 752 Negro soldiers and their families.¹⁷

After the Civil War, political interests in the West centered on expanding civilization onto the frontier, which consisted of a massive area including western Kansas, eastern Colorado, the Indian Territory, and New Mexico. However, there were not enough forces to provide adequate

protection for westward expansion. Therefore, Major General William T. Sherman, commander of the Division of the Missouri, asked for more forces, particularly cavalry.¹⁸ Sherman understood that infantry units would have a difficult time defeating the Indians on foot and, therefore, requested that more suitable cavalry be assigned to his department. On 28 June 1866, Congress authorized a force of 54,641 men, consisting of ten regiments of cavalry, five of artillery and forty-five of infantry.¹⁹ Sherman was authorized a total of 2,600 men--1,200 cavalry and 1,400 infantry. The cavalry was composed of the Seventh and Tenth regiments; the infantry, the Third and Fifth, and four companies of the Thirty-eighth. With this force Sherman was responsible for ensuring that construction of railroads would be stimulated, homesteaders moving out beyond the frontier settlements protected, the great cattle ranches secured against thieves, and roads and rails kept safe for travelers.²⁰ In addition, he was responsible for furnishing garrisons for twenty-six widely separated army posts within his department; nine of which were located in Kansas. Cavalry units were used primarily for scouting; following Indians trails; and escorting caravans, surveyors, and railroad construction parties, all in support of the Army's mission of protecting America's manifest destiny.²¹ As a result of the need for additional cavalry units on the frontier, the Tenth was organized at Fort Leavenworth and subsequently played a major role in the settlement of the West.

Social issues affected political debates in the decision to organize the Tenth at Fort Leavenworth. Many politicians who did not favor the enlistment of Negroes in the Regular Army were fearful that once Negroes were armed and given a certain amount of authority, they might take advantage of their new position and intimidate or even assault whites.²²

Those politicians who favored the enlistment of Negroes tried to assure the others by insisting that Negro regiments would serve only on the frontier. However, other politicians insisted that Negroes would serve wherever they were needed regardless of civilian wishes. The apprehension of arming Negroes with weapons was without justification as there were no records indicating that, while armed in the Civil War, Negroes posed a threat to their fellow soldiers. Nevertheless, these issues became irrelevant due to the immediate need to provide protection on the frontier. As a result, Negroes were unintentionally kept away from the more settled areas of the nation for over twenty years.²³

After the Civil War, many Negroes were still discontented with their living conditions, although considered free men. In the South, legislative codes were strict and aimed directly at Negroes, which supported the northerners' suspicions of a massive reenslavement program underway south of the Mason-Dixon line. While Negroes could own property, make contracts, sue, and be sued, they could testify only against members of their own race in court. Interracial marriages, free movement from one community to another, and remaining out after a specified hour at night were prohibited. Occupational restrictions generally limited blacks to agricultural endeavor, and strict contracts kept them in bondage for the duration of the agreement, which usually lasted a year. Any number of petty offenses brought fines, and those who were unable to pay were farmed out by local sheriffs to plantation owners who would pay the fines and thus acquire cheap labor. At the end of the Civil War, many Negroes refused to return to the fields under wage or the sharecropping system.²⁴ Therefore, several Negroes who were members of the Negro Volunteer units during the Civil War reenlisted in the Regular Army for economic security, without any

reservation as to where they would be assigned. The decision to send the volunteers of the Tenth to Fort Leavenworth was partly based on the outstanding record that cavalry units had established against fighting Indians and the need for more cavalry units to be assigned to the West. Fate would lead the Tenth Cavalry to call the strategic location of Fort Leavenworth home from 1866 to 1867, and again from 1930 to 1940.

Endnotes

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⁴Adjutant General's Office, Washington, 7 March 1827 Orders No. 14.

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¹²Partin, 22.

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¹⁴Ibid., 20.

¹⁵Ibid., 22.

¹⁶Ibid., 35.

¹⁷Ibid., 82.

¹⁸Carl Coke Rister, Border Command General Phil Sheridan in the West (University of Oklahoma Press, 1944), 42.

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²⁰Rister, 42.

²¹Ibid., 43.

²²Robert M. Utley, Frontiersmen in Blue (New York: 1967).

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CHAPTER THREE

THE BUFFALO SOLDIER'S LIFE AT FORT LEAVENWORTH

On 9 August 1866, Lieutenant General William T. Sherman, Commander of the Military Division of the Missouri, issued General Order NO. 6 which named Fort Leavenworth the headquarters and rendezvous point of the Tenth Cavalry, and Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson as its Commander.¹ The unit was authorized 1,092 Negro recruits. The organization of the two Negro Cavalry regiments was to be the same as any other regiment, with two exceptions. First, two veterinary surgeons instead of one would be assigned to the regiment. Second, each regiment would have a regimental chaplain whose duty would include the instruction of common English to enlisted men.² This chapter will address the Tenth Cavalry's initial assignment at Fort Leavenworth in 1866, the reason for their return in 1931, and a review of their garrison life while at Fort Leavenworth.

Upon arrival at Fort Leavenworth, the Tenth Cavalry recruits began training with their assigned companies. Each day began with a scheduled routine. From reveille to the echoing of taps, each hour of the day was strictly accounted for. Most soldiers daily duties consisted of three stable calls, extensive training on mounts, and guard training. Other soldiers, except those specifically assigned to hospital attendant and teamster duties, were assigned details of stable police, kitchen detail, room orderly, and numerous other assignments.³ Saturday morning was filled

with wall locker, barracks, and uniform inspections; and Sunday was the only day for rest and relaxation.⁴

When soldiers were not performing their daily duties, they were enjoying their rest and relaxation. Fort Leavenworth's isolated location often caused the soldiers to create their own means of entertainment. They played card games, pitched horseshoes, and frequently visited Weston, a Missouri town approximately seven miles east of Fort Leavenworth. An unfortunate and notable aspect of frontier life was the fact that there were few women available for companionship.⁵

In organizing the Tenth Cavalry at Fort Leavenworth, the regiment experienced problems in recruiting officers, educating Negroes, and procuring quality horses and equipment.⁶ In retrospect, these were minor problems compared to the treatment they received from General William Hoffman, the Commanding General of Fort Leavenworth from 1866 to 1868. General Hoffman disliked Negroes and was contemptuous of officers who served with them. He constantly harassed Colonel Grierson by complaining of untidy quarters, alleged tardiness to meals, improper training methods, and improper routing of correspondence.

Hoffman deliberately made the Tenth's stay at the post as uncomfortable as possible. On one occasion, he quartered the regiment on low ground that became a swamp when wet. Colonel Grierson requested that the regiment's quarters be relocated, but Hoffman refused. The damp conditions resulted in the hospitalization of several troops with pneumonia. In such a command climate, Grierson became fearful of the future of his regiment and began organizing his companies as fast as possible.⁷ As soon as a company was fully organized, the troops were posted at Fort Hays, Fort Harker, and other strategic points along the

Smokey River and the Kansas Pacific Railroad. These soldiers' duty was to protect the traders traveling west.⁸

On 6 August 1867, the headquarters of the Tenth left Fort Leavenworth with eight companies, as Troop A through Troop H. The rest of the troops, I, K, L and M would be organized at a new headquarters at Fort Riley, Kansas.⁹ The Tenth's assignment at Fort Leavenworth from September 1866 to August 1867 primarily consisted of training to conduct combat operations. In addition to training, the soldiers supported the fort's garrison mission. Despite the harassment that they received from the Post Commander, the Tenth's stay at Fort Leavenworth was, overall, beneficial in preparing them for their assignment on the western frontier where they would be engaged in continuous combat operations for twenty-four years.

In October 1931, the 1st Squadron of the Tenth returned to Fort Leavenworth as a part of an overall plan to reduce and consolidate the Regular Army. In 1926, with Congress' authorization to expand the Air Corps, most of the people to fill the positions in the Air Corps came from active units of the Regular Army. Due to downsizing, Congress would not authorize the Army to replace the soldiers who transferred to the Air Corps, and the Army was reduced in force accordingly.

The expansion of the Air Corps took place in five yearly increments beginning in 1926; Negro units were required to take their share of the cuts in the fifth year, 1931. In a letter to Congressman Oscar DePriest (Republican-Illinois), General Douglas MacArthur stated that the overall plan would result in a better distribution of troops for national defense and for training civilian components. Further, he explained the Tenth Cavalry's uncomfortable living conditions while stationed along the Mexican Border. As a result, the War Department wanted to provide them

with the kind of quarters they deserved. He concluded by saying that this would be accomplished with the present plan.¹⁰ Consequently, the Tenth Cavalry was divided into three units and assigned to three locations: the 2d Squadron, West Point, New York; Machine Gun Troop, Fort Myer, Virginia; and Headquarters and 1st Squadron, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.¹¹ These three locations were considered to be three of the Army's better posts. Ironically, despite the changes and reductions in strength, the Chief of Staff of the Army stated that "the Tenth Cavalry will actually be increased as a result of the changes."¹² According to Special Orders Number 237, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, dated 12 October 1931, the Tenth's strength was to be immediately increased upon their arrival at the post. The order required that the current Negro detachment be demobilized and its enlisted personnel members transferred to the Tenth Cavalry.¹³

Although the Tenth Cavalry had been away from Fort Leavenworth since 1867, their reassignment there was considered a return home. The Post Commander, Brigadier General Stuart Heintzelman, unlike the Post Commander of 1866, gladly welcomed the Tenth back to Fort Leavenworth. The following article taken from the Cavalry Journal best describes the Fort's reception of the Tenth:

The Headquarters, Tenth Cavalry and 1st Squadron arrived at Fort Leavenworth, by rail, 6PM, October 12, 1931. The men were in excellent spirit and health and have occupied their new quarters. They seem to enjoy their new surroundings. The cities of Leavenworth and Kansas City afford all opportunities for pleasure and recreation for a soldier, as there are many colored people in these communities who own homes. The cities have good schools, many athletic and social activities and lodges. General Heintzelman, Commandant, his staff and about two hundred members of officers' and enlisted men's families of Fort Leavenworth met the train at the station. The troops and train were commanded by Lieutenant John L. Ryan, Jr., 10th Cavalry. Their arrival here was a great reunion for old friends, former members of the 10th Cavalry, both officers and soldiers, and their families. Brigadier General Stuart Heintzelman, Commandant, Command and General Staff College, inspected the regiment October 17th, talked to

each soldier, individually, and made a short talk to each troop, mentioning the fine appearance of the men and his delight and that of the post, in having such a distinguished regiment in the garrison.¹⁴

Although many things had changed since the Tenth first arrived at Fort Leavenworth in 1866, some things remained the same. The most significant changes from the Tenth's first assignment at Fort Leavenworth were found in their duties and responsibilities. Instead of training for combat operations, their primary duties were to take care of horses belonging to officers assigned to the Command and General Staff School and to perform caretaking and housekeeping. These duties included serving as saddlers, painters, horseshoers, mechanics, carpenters, cooks, messenger clerks, warehousemen, and military policemen. They also performed duties in the houses of officers, cared for grounds, and taught military wives and children how to ride horses.¹⁵

The Tenth's primary duty of taking care of the horses called for each soldier to be assigned four to six horses. The soldiers' tasks included everything from cleaning their stalls, and grooming their hair with a currycomb and brush, to taking them out for exercise (see Figure 2). The horses were trained and exercised in the area of the current Patton Junior High School and Normandy and Osage villages at the southeastern side of the Post. When the officers had a polo game, the Negro enlisted grooms would place boots on the horses and take them out to the polo field. After the polo game, the soldiers would take the horses back to their stables and ensure that they were cleaned, fed, and watered.¹⁶

The soldiers were also instructors for the Ladies Riding Club for officers' wives. Soldiers were paid an extra three dollars per month for teaching the wives and their children how to ride horses. Three dollars a month was considered "good money" at the time.¹⁷ The soldiers who received

extra pay for working in officer homes were called strikers. Usually, a striker took care of four families at any given time, and their duties were normally assigned by the officers' wives. One soldier commented that while he was a striker he found out that the officers really did not run the Army, their wives did.¹⁸ Strikers were assigned various tasks which included, but were not limited to, shining shoes, cleaning the quarters, ironing uniforms, maintaining the yard, and performing other general housekeeping duties. The strikers were paid an extra \$15.00 per month for their services.¹⁹ Regular pay for a private was \$21.00 per month, but after taxes it was only \$15.00. The \$15.00 that the soldier received from being a striker was not taxable, and therefore, this money significantly supplemented their livelihoods. White soldiers were not servants or strikers nor did they do stable work. They were primarily assigned to administrative tasks and assisting the officers attending the Command and General Staff School with training exercises.²⁰

The wives of the Buffalo Soldiers also contributed to the family income by employment as housemaids, cooks, and sitters for the officers children. Housemaids and cooks were usually paid \$20.00 per month, which was reduced to \$12.00 per month during the Great Depression. A maid was usually assigned duties of preparing breakfast, getting the children ready for school, cleaning the house, and preparing lunch and dinner for the officer's family. Some of the maids lived in the basements of the officer quarters.²¹

The rooms in the basements were terrible. They were intended for storage rooms, but had been converted into living quarters for the maids. We had to walk on dirt floors and under iron pipes to get to the cots in our little rooms. We lived amongst mice and rats in those dark and dingy basements.²²

Although these living conditions were substandard, maids were generally treated fairly by the officers' families.²³ Regular pay was not considered enough to sustain a family and, as a result, the Buffalo Soldiers and their wives improvised through these other means of employment. By working as instructors for the Ladies Riding Club, as strikers, or as housemaids the soldiers were able to improve the quality of their life. A Buffalo Soldier's wife said that her husband was "an ambitious, virile young man, looking for a way to obtain the American Dream. The Army at this time gave the young black man that opportunity."²⁴

The soldiers' primary recreation and entertainment activities centered on the Tenth Cavalry Club located where Gruber Field is today. After duty hours and on weekends, the soldiers would routinely go to the Tenth Cavalry Club with their spouses or companions. The soldiers could enjoy alcoholic beverages, play cards, bingo, gamble, and an evening of dancing.²⁵ The Tenth had its own band named Corporal Butler's Band featuring Earnest Fields. One Buffalo Soldier's wife describes a favorite song often played entitled "Buffalo Gals":

There's a delightful ditty almost every child has sung, called, Buffalo Gal. It is listed as an American folk song. The copy I have has the composer's name as "Cool" White. Does that tell you something? In that day many of the guys were known better by their nicknames than their real names. Ham-Fat Jenkins, Skillet Jones, Six Footer, Headney Johnson, and Fats McHenry. Well back to the song-- Buffalo Gal--a music teacher out of Bonner Springs told me that she had visited the Fort Scott Historical Museum and the Ranger-Guide on duty had informed her that "Cool" White was a Buffalo Soldier.²⁶

This song was dedicated to the wives and companions of the Buffalo Soldiers (see Figure 3). The Buffalo Soldiers would also visit Kansas City to hear famous celebrities like Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Bennie Moten, Ella Fitzgerald, Joe Turner, and others.²⁷

The Tenth also enjoyed playing sports for recreation, football and baseball being the most favored. Football games were played behind the Tenth Cavalry Club. Baseball games were played at the baseball diamond located where Munson Army Community Hospital is presently located. Competition was strongly encouraged and games were often played against other Negro teams stationed at other posts. The Tenth often played against the Ninth Cavalry, stationed at Fort Riley and Negro teams from the City of Leavenworth (see Figure 4).²⁸ The "Buffalo Gals" were the cheering section for sports events, rodeos and polo matches.²⁹

Another form of recreation that the soldiers and families looked forward to was Regimental Day, set aside for the Tenth Cavalry and their families and friends to enjoy, a day filled with fun and relaxation. Athletic events, band concerts, which included local musicians from Leavenworth, soldier theatricals, picnics, and dances were the order of the day. Wives would play with the band, and people from all over Kansas would travel to Fort Leavenworth to socialize with the Tenth Cavalry.³⁰

The Tenth enjoyed attending church on Sundays, held in the Tenth Cavalry Club, or would attend and participate in church services in the local community. Several soldiers participated in the choir at Bethel A.M.E. located at Sixth and Pottawotamie, and Independence Baptist Church, located in the 400 block of Kiowa. Brigadier General Julius Johnson commented, while attending Bethel A.M.E. Church as a young child, that he enjoyed seeing Buffalo Soldier Harry Hollowell playing the piano in uniform.³¹ After church services, movies were played at the club, and soldiers were allowed to invite their girlfriends and guests to attend. The Tenth also had a mascot, a dog named Sam. The Tenth took pride in their mascot and trained him accordingly. Sam would stand at attention

when colors were played.³² Although life on the western frontier was somewhat mundane, the Buffalo Soldiers were successful in creating their own forms of recreation and entertainment, thereby enhancing the social lives of their families and members of the Tenth Cavalry.

Unfortunately, garrison life was not without infractions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Violations of the UCMJ primarily consisted of unauthorized absences (UA), and confrontations between the Negro soldiers. Altercations usually occurred over money and women. Punishments awarded to the soldiers were considered appropriate for the offenses committed. As the Tenth was segregated from other units, racial incidents were uncommon. When a cavalryman would meet another cavalryman (trooper) regardless of their race, there was an unwritten commitment between the men that they would fight for each other.

The Tenth did encounter some racial incidents with members of the community. Negroes were not allowed to frequent certain restaurants and businesses which sometimes resulted in confrontations. However, there were some whites and Negroes who enjoyed each other's company and wanted to socialize together in public, but these associations were not accepted by society. Therefore, many potential friendships between Negroes and whites were suppressed.³³

Just as in 1866, during the 1930s and 1940s segregation was official policy in the Army, and Fort was still no exception to the rule. The post schools were segregated, and children of the Tenth Cavalry were required to attend school in the city of. All of the city's elementary schools were segregated, but the high schools were integrated. The tuition of \$4.00 was paid by the Post School Fund, and the children were transported to and from school in vehicles owned and operated by the Tenth

Cavalry. The soldiers of the Tenth did not have to pay for tuition or transportation expenses. However, other soldiers residing on the post who had children attending school in were required to furnish transportation for their children and pay for tuition fees.³⁴ The reason may have been that other soldiers had a choice as to where they could send their children to school, and the Buffalo Soldiers' children had to attend school off post.

Buffalo Soldiers and their wives often found themselves explaining the segregation laws to their children. One Buffalo Soldier remembers his children having to walk by North Broadway Elementary School, an all white school, in order to attend Lincoln Elementary School, an all Negro school. He said that his children would often ask him why they could not attend North Broadway since it was closest to their home, and he often found himself explaining the country's segregation laws.³⁵ A wife of a Buffalo Soldier recalls her children going to an integrated school in Germany without any reservation. However, when she returned to the United States, specifically Fort Leavenworth, her children were not allowed to attend certain schools. Although very disappointing, it was the law of the land that was accepted during that time.³⁶ There were also unwritten segregation rules and regulations that the Post condoned. The Tenth either had limited access to or could not use many Post facilities. The Tenth could purchase items from the Post Exchange, but were not allowed to eat inside the restaurant. Although there were no orders issued forbidding enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry from patronizing the Post's exchange restaurant, efforts were made to discourage it. As such, they were encouraged to use the branch exchange located in the Tenth Cavalry Club.³⁷ The Tenth was allowed to attend the War Department Theater, but they had to

sit in the Negro section, and they were not allowed to use the restrooms. Again, they had to go across the street to the Tenth Calvary Club.³⁸

There were also restrictions placed on the Tenth regarding the use of athletic and recreation facilities, including one small and wholly inadequate gymnasium, two swimming pools, two baseball diamonds, three soft ball diamonds, one football field, five tennis courts, and the War Department Theater. Despite having no orders issued denying the enlisted men of the Tenth Cavalry the use of any of these facilities, they were discouraged from using the post gymnasium and the swimming pools. In addition to the athletic and recreational facilities mentioned, a branch of the Army and Navy Young Mens Christian Association was located on the Post. This activity operated a small gymnasium, a swimming pool, four bowling alleys, and a lounge and reading room. Again, the Tenth was denied use of these facilities.³⁹

The Post hospital and living areas were also segregated. Negro patients were placed in the lower area of the basement, usually under substandard conditions. However, the treatment they received was very good. Mostly, Negro patients were attended by Negro aides.⁴⁰ Although some families lived in town, other Buffalo Soldiers who were married lived on post in housing areas designated for Negroes. There were approximately six quarters designated for Negro soldiers located in the vicinity of the current Finance Building and Gruber Hall. The more senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) lived on Arsenal Hill, where Bell Hall stands today. The single soldiers were housed in Funston and McNair Halls (see Figure 5).⁴¹ Although many segregation practices were condoned at Fort Leavenworth, they were not long shielded from public scrutiny. On 16 September 1938, "The Call," a Kansas City weekly newspaper published by Negroes, carried a

front-page story entitled, "Expose Discrimination Against Tenth Cavalry at Leavenworth." This story criticized the authorities at Fort Leavenworth for their alleged discrimination against the members of the Tenth Cavalry. As a result of this article and four letters written by individuals to the Secretary of War, an investigation by the Office of the Seventh Corps Inspector General (IG) was initiated and conducted by Major Everett C. Williams. His results revealed that segregation and discrimination were prevalent throughout the Post. However, senior white officers did not feel that the Tenth was unjustly treated. They felt that their efforts to keep the Negro and white soldiers segregated greatly reduced the risk of racial incidents and therefore, made no concerted effort to integrate the facilities on Post. However, the Army did facilitate the needs of the Tenth Cavalry soldiers by providing a new club exclusively for their use. Despite the post's segregation policy, and the discrimination and prejudice they experienced from the local community, the Tenth's morale was high and their dedication to duty and loyalty were undiminished.

Endnotes

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¹⁵George E. Knapp, Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth in the 1930s and early 1940s, 2.

¹⁶Deidra W. Gray, "The History of Fort Leavenworth", research paper.

¹⁷Robinson, 10 February 1995

¹⁸Mr. Julian R. Brown, Buffalo Soldier, PFC, interview by author, Leavenworth, Kansas, 8 February 1995.

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²¹Sybil Barnes, "I Remember the Buffalo Soldiers", (Copyright 1992, Sybil Barnes), 6.

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²⁴Mrs. Thelma L. (NeView) Hollowell, wife of Mr. Hollowell, interview by author, Oral recording, Leavenworth, Kansas, 11 February 1995.

²⁵Mr. Harry H. Hollowell, Buffalo Soldier, CWO, interview by author, Oral Recording, Leavenworth, Kansas, 11 February 1995.

²⁶Mrs. Hollowell, 11 February 1995.

²⁷Barnes, 5.

²⁸Mr. Hollowell, 11 February 1995.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Ibid.

³²Barnes, 7-8.

³³Interview with Mr. Hollowell of 24 April 1995.

³⁴Blacks in the United States IV Armed Forces: Basic Documents, 485.

³⁵Robinson, 10 February 1995.

³⁶Mrs. Hollowell, 11 February 1995.

³⁷Blacks in the United States IV Armed Forces: Basic Documents, 485.

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³⁹Basic Documents, 483, 484.

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⁴¹Ibid.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS MONUMENT AT FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Ordinary streets and buildings on army posts are history lessons. The Army is an institution that learns from its past, using its physical surroundings to commemorate its heroes and convey to its present members a sense of historical significance. The Army maintains its custom of naming roads and buildings after prior residents of the post, and Fort Leavenworth is no exception. Fort Leavenworth is the oldest fort in continuous service west of the Missouri River, and it is frequently referred to as "the heart and soul of the American Army."¹ Thus, when General Collin Powell was Deputy Commanding General of Fort Leavenworth in 1982, he knew about the Fort's great history. He also knew that the Buffalo Soldiers had been organized there and that over eighty-four members of the Ninth and Tenth regiments were buried at Fort Leavenworth's National Cemetery (see Figure 6). The Buffalo Soldiers had become one of the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history, receiving a total of twenty-four Medals of Honor and numerous other citations over the years. They had labored and fought under a veil of anonymity and prejudice throughout most of their history, yet they maintained one of the lowest desertion rates and best combat records in the Army.²

One day, while General Powell was jogging around the post, he noticed two gravel alleyways named after the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries (see

Figure 7), and thought, "Is that all there is? . . . Are these gravel alleys all there is to signify their presence, all there is to commemorate their incredible contribution to the settlement of the American West?"³ Powell concluded that there should be something more to commemorate these heroes of the American West at Fort Leavenworth. His dream was for a modest statue chronicling their presence, but his idea languished after he left Fort Leavenworth.⁴

Meanwhile, Mr. Eddie Dixon, a Vietnam veteran and sculptor from Lubbock, Texas, was trying unsuccessfully to interest other military authorities in building a monument honoring the Buffalo Soldiers. Then, in August 1985, Dr. Charles Cureton, Director of Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas saw a phone note on his desk from Dixon that read "Buffalo Soldier Statue?" Cureton always wanted to build a statue that honored Negro Soldiers in the military, so he returned the call. Their phone conversation resulted in Dixon sending several sketches of the proposed Buffalo Soldier statue and photographs of his work to Cureton for review. Upon receipt of the sketches, Cureton was immediately impressed with Dixon's vision. Cureton submitted the sketches to his chain of command and negotiations with Dixon followed. Cureton put together an entire package which gave specific details, including everything from the type of uniform, coordinated with the Smithsonian Museum, to the sword. Dixon was then to submit sketches to Cureton each month based on the information provided in the package. The sketches would be critiqued and returned to Dixon for modifications, as necessary. This process continued for seven years. In 1989, Dr. Cureton, now the Chief of Museum and Historical programs at Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command

(TRADOC), was the approving authority for the project before it would be sent to the Department of the Army for final approval.

The funding and building of the Buffalo Soldier Monument would be a monumental challenge for all parties involved. In 1985, Brigadier General Dauherty of the Kansas National Guard, enthusiastically took up this challenge, but little progress was made.⁵ Then in 1989, Commander Carton Philpot, a Naval officer who was assigned as an instructor at the Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, became involved. "I had no idea about the Buffalo Soldiers, no idea who they were or their significant contributions, but when I got to Fort Leavenworth, I learned about them and immediately set to work on the project."⁶ Commander Philpot soon shared General Powell's dream to build a monument in recognition of the Buffalo Soldiers. Only three months after his arrival at Fort Leavenworth, he began his campaign, "The Making of a Monument." Philpot conferred with Dixon and organized the Buffalo Soldier Monument Committee to raise more than one million dollars in monies and donated services needed for the project. Dixon immediately started work on the statue, although he would not have a contract or receive any payment for almost two years.

The campaign entailed seven project phases. Phase one was to obtain a national resolution making July 28, 1992, "Buffalo Soldiers Day." On 3 August 1992, Congress approved Public Law 102-331 designating 28 July 1992 as "Buffalo Soldiers Day" across the country, and authorized the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities (see Figure 8). Phase two involved developing and erecting a suitable monument at Fort Leavenworth to recognize the Buffalo Soldiers and their

achievements. The Buffalo Soldier Monument Committee spearheaded the multi-million dollar project with the help of the Army, historians, advertising agencies, community volunteers, local organizations, and former members and descendants of the men who served in the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries. Americans from across the country provided financial support. Ambassador Walter Annenberg of the Annenberg Foundation, New York, New York kicked off the fund drive with a quarter of million dollar donation. Corporate contributions, personal contributions, the National Endowment of the Humanities, students, civic groups, Buffalo Soldiers selling T-shirts, all contributed to the funding of the project.

The Monument is located down a gentle slope from Truesdell Hall, overlooking Smith Lake on Grant Avenue, the same location where in 1866 the Buffalo Soldiers lived in tents, segregated from the white soldier's quarters.⁷ The memorial is a towering 12 foot 9 inch hollow bronze statue that weighs 2,480 pounds. The statue is of a Buffalo Soldier on his horse, crossed-sabers on his canteen, a rifle in his hand and a pistol on his hip. An upper pond, and a lower reflecting pool connected by an eight foot waterfall, and surrounding insignias of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries, complete the structure. Rocks that form the pool are limestone, except for a concrete slab under the horse. About 80,000 gallons of water are in the upper and lower pools; 500 gallons of water flow over the waterfall each minute. The lower pool is a gift of the Command and General Staff Officer Course Class of 1990. The entrance wall is of Indiana limestone, a gift of the Class of 1991 (see Figure 9).⁸

Artists such as Eddie Dixon, Lee Brubaker, Tom Kolarik, and the designers at local Hermes Landscaping, devoted thousands of hours to creating the concept and working out the details of the design. The

sculptor, Mr. Dixon, believed that the Buffalo Soldier statue was surely the most ambitious in an ongoing series of efforts to put the historic deeds of black people in a form that could not be ignored - in monumental sculpture. Mr. Dixon reflected, "When I was young, all I learned about black history was George Washington Carver and Frederick Douglas. That's how lacking I was. As I would go into museums, there was a silence, a silence of unsung heroes. It bothered me. I said, I know we did more than this. I know we had to be more than just slaves."⁹ As a result, Mr. Dixon became even more interested in black history, because he had limited knowledge of his origin and ancestors. He said that he was going to write books, but he was afraid that nobody would read them. So he thought of putting books in novel form, but nobody would believe them. So he decided to try sculpting.

Mr. Dixon taught himself how to be a sculptor. His first statue of a Buffalo Soldier, done in 1980 with a butter knife and a stick as his only tools, is now on display in the Texas Technical Art Museum. Since then, he has created a number of sculptures for national historic sites and museums, including Fort Davis and Fort Concho, two of the West Texas posts at which the Buffalo Soldiers served during the Indian wars; the Panhandle Plains Museum at Canyon; the Llano Estacado Museum in Plainview; and the Smithsonian Institution. "If I can get sculptures of black historical figures into museums and national parks and historical areas," Mr. Dixon said, "then the generations coming up can see them and can feel that they belong to something." (see Figure 10).¹⁰

The ground breaking ceremony occurred on 28 July 1989, and four years later on 25 July 1992, General Powell's dream was realized. The day before the dedication ceremony, a Non Commissioned Officer was assigned the

duty of guarding the statue. In remembering this honorable duty the soldier wrote the following poem:

A massive bronze warrior and his horse stand and proudly encapture a multitude of memories, as they tease at the moon and loom over the a apron of a Leavenworth lake.

Crickets chirp out knightly praise on a regular basis, in synchrony with the frequent hymn of a duck or a drake.

Vast seas of chairs beckon future souls of a saturday celebration to come in and cherish the sight. On a shore in the distance, sporadically spaced at the far end of an aquatic mirror, reflections come back from an occasional fisherman's light.

A guard beneath bronze all camouflaged with gear, the one thing not hidden his glimmering tear. Flags hover at the front, like haunting hostesses by an adjacent roadside display.

A shift comes to an end and a sunrise to start, leaving guard pensive with something to say. The Buffalo Soldier captured this heart. Guarding the statue was only the start.¹¹

The Buffalo Soldier Monument was dedicated at Fort Leavenworth to the memory of the men who served in the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries, and to commemorate their trailblazing efforts which paved the way for Negro soldiers in today's Army. At the Dedication Ceremony, General Powell personally expressed his gratitude to the determination, creativity and imagination and, above all, the men and women who kept his dream alive and turned it into reality. General Powell then explained in his own words to an audience of over 12,000 people, the importance of the Buffalo Soldiers and the monument. He revealed that "The soldier you see here represents all of America - what we were in the past, what we are now and, most important of all, what we can be, what we must be tomorrow."¹² He said:

When you look at the soldier your heart tells you that more than anything else that he believed. He believed that hatred and bigotry and prejudice could not defeat him, that through his pain and sacrifice they would be destroyed for the evil things they are.¹³ . . . that someday through his efforts and the efforts of others to follow, future generations would know full freedom.¹⁴

Powell believed that Americans should be motivated by the bravery and determination of the Buffalo Soldiers. "I climbed on their strong backs. I will never forget their service and their sacrifice," General Powell emphasized:

I will also never forget that the spirit of the Buffalo Soldier will only be satisfied when the day comes that there are no more first for Blacks to achieve where no longer measure progress in America by first, for anyone, but only by last; when that great day comes when all Americans believe and know they are equal.¹⁵

General Powell concluded by stating that the powerful purpose of this monument is "to motivate us to keep struggling until all Americans have an equal seat at our national table, until all Americans enjoy every opportunity to excel, every chance to achieve their dream."¹⁶

Phase three of the project was an offspring of Commander Philpot's statement that "We have got to get this story into the schools, not as part of Black History Month in February but as part of American history. This is a group of heroes - true heroes that you don't have to create. Not football players, not singers, just guys who did a tough job and nobody gave a hoot." On 11 November 1992, the Department of the Army took over the responsibility and accountability of the Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Leavenworth. As a result, the name of the Buffalo Soldier Committee was changed to the Buffalo Soldier Educational and Historical Society. This new name indicates the ongoing effort to educate America about the Buffalo Soldiers. The goal is to have this done by the year 2000. As part of phase three, the society has dedicated its efforts to compiling a series of video history tapes about the Buffalo soldiers and distributing them to schools, libraries, and museums across the country. Since this phase has begun, there have been four more books written about the Buffalo Soldiers, one in German, another in Polish, and two in English. Additionally, the

Buffalo Soldiers residing in Kansas and Missouri have been actively involved in educating adults and children about their history. They travel all around the city delivering speeches and lectures to local schools, colleges, military bases and churches. This phase of the project is expected to be a continuing process.

The fourth phase of the project was to work toward authorization of a series of U.S. Postage Stamps in honor of the Buffalo Soldiers (see Figure 11). The U.S. Postal system immortalized the Buffalo Soldier stamp through release of a commemorative stamp to the world at Fort Leavenworth; Fort Concho, Texas; Fort Huachuca, Arizona; and the Afro-American Postal Leaders United for Success National Convention in Dallas, Texas on 22 April 1992. The Buffalo Soldier stamp, designed by military artist Mort Kuntsler, is set on a white background and depicts four Buffalo Soldiers on horseback. Of 185 million stamps to be released, 45,000 Buffalo Soldier stamps were brought to Fort Leavenworth for the issuing ceremony of which 37,000 were sold by the end of the day (see Figure 12).

Phase five of the project was to establish a major exhibit at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. and develop a series of static and travelling museum exhibits. To date, there is one exhibit at the Smithsonian pertaining to the Negro soldiers. Fort Leavenworth has an exhibit of the Buffalo Soldiers at the Frontier Army Museum and the Public Affairs Office has a traveling exhibit of the Buffalo Soldiers (see Figure 13). Interest in having an exhibit at the Smithsonian dedicated to the Buffalo Soldiers is still active, with an expected completion date of between 1998 and 2000.

Phase six of the project was to develop educational material and programs for all ages using the Buffalo Soldier theme (i.e. coloring books,

cartoons, mentors, academic scholarships, horse riding, computer games documentaries, movies, T.V. programs, etc). This phase of the project is still in the initial stages of planning and coordination. However, an ongoing interest will ensure that this phase is completed in a timely manner.

Phase seven applied energy to the development and building of a Reference and Research Library as an authoritative source of information about Negroes in the military and the West. As part of this phase, a room at the CGSC's Combined Arms Research Library was dedicated to Colonel Charles Young on 9 November 1994.

Colonel Young, born 12 March 1865 in Helena, Kentucky, had an outstanding military career, although much of his fame was achieved while serving in units outside the Ninth and Tenth Cavalries. He received his early education in the public schools of Ripley, Ohio, where he graduated from high school at the age of sixteen. Following graduation, he taught school in the colored High School of Ripley. While teaching school, he had an opportunity to take and pass the examination for appointment as a cadet at West Point. He entered the Academy in 1884 with the class of 1888. However, during his first year, Young was set back to the class of 1889 as a result of being declared deficient in mathematics. Five years later in June 1889, just before graduation, Young was again declared deficient, this time in engineering. Consequently, he was almost disenrolled from the Academy, but both officers and cadets were so impressed by his steadfast perseverance and tenacious resolution, he was permitted to remain at the academy for two months during the summer to be tutored by the instructor who had declared him deficient. On 31 August, cadet Young graduated as a member of class 1889.

Upon graduation, Second Lieutenant Young was assigned to the Tenth Cavalry, and, with the exception of a short stint with the Seventh Cavalry, all of his subsequent service of twenty-eight years was with Negro troops of the Twenty-fifth Infantry and the Ninth Cavalry. From 1894 to 1898, Lieutenant Young was highly respected Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio. During the Spanish American War he was Major of the Ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry (colored). In 1903, he served as Superintendent of the Sequoia and General Grant Parks in California and from 1904 to 1907 he was the U.S. Military Attache to the Republic of Haiti. While assigned to this duty, he foresaw that American occupation might become necessary for the good of the people. From 1912 until 1915, he served as Military Attache to the Republic of Liberia.

Young received high commendation for his work in Liberia. As a result of his reorganization of the Liberian constabulary, he was awarded the Spingarn gold medal, the gift of a former professor of that name on the staff of Colombia University. Colonel Young was the second recipient of this honor, and the medal is now awarded annually to the man or woman of African descent and of American citizenship who has made the highest achievement during the year in any field of honorable human endeavor. Colonel Young's premature death in Liberia on 8 January, 1922, was a distinct loss to his race and to the country. Nevertheless, his perseverance, remarkable spirit of service, and sacrifice for duty, honor and country are fine examples for others to follow. For these reasons the Buffalo Soldiers Educational Society chose him to be recognized as symbol of respect for all Buffalo Soldiers.

General Collin Powell's dream to recognize the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth with a modest statue became a reality on 25 July 1992.

Although the monument was established to honor the 9th and 10th Cavalries specifically, its significance extends far beyond just honoring the Buffalo Soldiers. The monument plays a significant role in educating many of the Army's leaders who pass through the front gate of Fort Leavenworth, the heart of the Army's doctrinal development and officer education. More than 3000 captains attend the Combined Arms Service Staff School and approximately 1200 field grade officers, to include members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and international services, attend the Command and General Staff College each year. Additionally, more than 100 lieutenant colonels and colonels attend the Pre-Command Course prior the taking command of battalions and brigades throughout the world. As these officers attend Fort Leavenworth, they are likely to observe the Buffalo Soldier Monument and, consequently, they are exposed to the history of Buffalo Soldiers and their legacy. When these officers leave Fort Leavenworth, they are able to share this information with their units, thereby educating more people about Negroes' contributions in the military.

Phase one, the monument, continually commemorates and educates. The six phases which follow will serve to disperse the message throughout the nation of the meaning of the Buffalo Soldiers and their selfless and heroic contributions to society.

Endnotes

¹"Honoring the Buffalo Soldiers" American Heritage February/March 1992, 85.

²Public Law 102-331 - 3 Aug 1992, Joint Resolution.

³Dallas Morning News, 5.

⁴Dedication speech by General Collin Powell 24 July, 1992.

⁵Dr. Cureton, Chief of Museum and Historical programs at Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), interview by author, Oral recording, Leavenworth, KS, 29 March 1995.

⁶Dallas Morning News, 5.

⁷Ibid., 5.

⁸The Buffalo Soldier Monument Dedication Booklet.

⁹Monument Information, Fort Leavenworth Frontier Museum

¹⁰Dallas Morning News, 5.

¹¹Ibid., 5.

¹²Jeffrey Jay Reardon, NCO 705th Battalion, AG, Fort Leavenworth, KS, 24 July 1992.

¹³General Powell's speech, 10.

¹⁴Ibid., 10.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Ibid., 9.

¹⁷General Powell's speech, 11.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

Conclusions

Negroes fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War even though they were not allowed to join the Regular Army or become citizens of the United States. Despite these injustices they proved to be loyal and faithful to their country. One might ask why they fought for a country that did not respect them. As slaves, Negroes were accustomed to being treated as an inferior race. They were subjected to mistreatment, discrimination, and poor living conditions. Most Negroes accepted this substandard way of living passively, and they obeyed their masters regardless of the task. Notions of equality and fairness were beyond their hope or expectation and mere survival consumed their energies.

When freed from slavery and given the opportunity to join the Army, they were already accustomed to harsh discipline and rendering respect toward their superiors. The perseverance and dedication to duty demonstrated during their military service were traits painfully gained as slaves and now expected of them as soldiers.

After the Civil War, the Army experienced a significant reduction in force. However, their missions continued to increase and cavalry units were needed for rigorous duty in expanding the West. Consequently, Congress authorized the strength of the Army to be increased and authorized Negroes to join the Regular Army. Negroes had proven their fighting

ability, perseverance and loyalty in previous wars. Still, their enlistment was to be only an experiment, some people fearing that Negroes would retaliate against whites if armed with weapons. However, Negroes proved to be faithful American fighting men, and the experiment gained a permanence which continues today.

In planning for the assignment of Negroes in the Regular Army, many considerations were made, but the overriding concern was that cavalry units were needed in the West. Consequently, two Negro cavalry regiments were organized, the Ninth and Tenth. The Tenth was selected to support this mission, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas was selected as the place where they would be organized. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas served as a key position in westward expansion. It was the primary logistical site for both military expeditions and settlers traveling westward. Due to its strategic location in promoting National expansion, the Tenth cavalry was organized here before being assigned to the Western Frontier.

The Tenth was composed of all Negro soldiers, but their leadership consisted of white officers. Negroes adjusted well to this situation as it resembled the slave master relationship. This relationship may also explain why Negroes were so obedient to their white officers and performed so well under adverse conditions.

For many of the soldiers of the Tenth Cavalry this would be their first military experience, which turned out to be filled with prejudice from their white leadership. The Garrison Commander, at Fort Leavenworth discriminated against them and saw that their living conditions were substandard. The Tenth faced extreme harsh weather, disease specifically cholera, discrimination, and isolation from society while assigned on the western frontier. Additionally, they fought with poor equipment, old

horses, and consumed unhealthy food. Their ability to create their own forms of entertainment and recreation, and maintain a team spirit were admirable achievements of a regiment serving on the frontier.

The Buffalo Soldiers' combat record speaks for itself. They fought relentlessly on the plains of Kansas and in Indian Territory, in the vast expanse of West Texas along the Rio Grande in Mexico and in the deserts and mountains of New Mexico and Arizona, in Colorado and finally in the Dakotas. Few regiments could have survived under the harsh conditions of these campaigns. Although they received no recognition or accommodations for their accomplishments, and using second-rate horses and equipment, they still performed their duties admirably. The Buffalo Soldiers service was not limited to combat operations and included assisting Civil officials with establishing road networks, instrumental in expanding settlements in the West. The Tenth's loyal service and dedication to duty contributed significantly to promoting peace and advancing civilization along the western frontier.

Although the Buffalo Soldiers were successful in accomplishing their mission, they were often met with prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination. Their ability to perform exceptionally well under adverse conditions can be attributed to their self discipline, hope, and determination. The Buffalo soldiers believed that hatred and bigotry and prejudice could not defeat them, that through their pain and sacrifice these evils would be destroyed for what they are.

The Buffalo Soldiers adaption to substandard living condition, discrimination, poor equipment and diversified missions is a trait that was critical to their survival. The ability to adapt is an essential trait which enhances the Army's ability to accomplish the many diverse

challenges. Despite misfortunes, their patriotic spirit continued throughout the Indian Wars. Their success in settling the West remains a valuable asset to the United States; in that their distinguished fighting ability against the Indians brought respect for the Negro soldier that still lasts today. The Buffalo Soldiers were regular soldiers who performed harsh demanding duties. They did their job well, and displayed a selfless devotion to duty under extreme conditions. As a result of the Buffalo Soldiers accomplishments, Negroes who have followed have been allowed to enjoy the full meaning of freedom. It was the Buffalo Soldiers who set the stage to allow Negroes to attain equal opportunity and excel in the U. S. Armed Forces. Their legacy lives today and all Negroes serving in the U.S. military can feel proud for the unlimited opportunities available.

After participating in combat operations on the western frontier for twenty-four years, the Tenth returned to Fort Leavenworth as a result of a plan to down size the Regular Army. Realizing that the Tenth had endured unfavorable living conditions, the War Department selected Fort Leavenworth for their assignment as a means of expressing appreciation for the Tenth's outstanding service. Nevertheless, the Tenth still faced discrimination. In 1866, many Negro soldiers had just received their freedom and were willing to serve under any circumstance. Now in 1931, sixty-five years later, significant changes had taken place and, for the most part, in the best interest of the Negro soldier. Therefore, many saw no need to complain and risk their privileges being taken away; furthermore, things were getting better with time.

Their return to Fort Leavenworth allowed them to establish their roots in the City of Leavenworth. Strong relationships with the community

were established through local marriages, employment, businesses, government, and schools. These relationships remain strong today. The community's involvement with base activities is attributed to the many Buffalo Soldiers who still reside in the Leavenworth, Kansas City area. In a deliberate effort to keep the Buffalo Soldier legacy alive, the members of the Leavenworth Community, and the military and government employees at Fort Leavenworth came together in order to raise enough money to fund a statue honoring the Buffalo Soldiers. Through their efforts the initial idea to build a statue turned into a phenomenal project. People from all over the country supported this effort through communication, publication, and financial contributions.

Since the "Making of the Monument," there has been an ongoing campaign to educate Americans about the Buffalo Soldiers' contributions to society. Fort Leavenworth has been the focal point of this information, thereby contributing significantly to the legacy. It took over 100 years for the Buffalo Soldiers story to be told and that story is very much alive today. The Buffalo Soldiers are more prominent today than 100 years ago. Today's society allows history to be written about Negroes, whereas, 100 years ago, writing about and publicizing negro activities were suppressed. Now that this research has been conducted on the life of the Buffalo soldiers, much can be determined from their loyal service, perseverance, adaption, and finally, their contribution to society.

The Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Leavenworth is an lasting symbol of greatness and respect for the formerly almost forgotten Buffalo Soldiers. It is a reminder for all who pass through the gates of Fort Leavenworth that Negroes made a difference and deserve their place in our history books, museums and parks throughout America. The monument will

remind those who follow of the sacrifice that the Buffalo Soldiers made for all Negroes. However, the educational process of the story of the Buffalo Soldiers and their meaning to future generations is the true and lasting monument.

Recommendations

The lives and memories of the Buffalo soldiers who still reside in the Leavenworth and Kansas City area must be recorded. This valuable information is about to escape our history books as these soldiers are advanced in age. Their children who are in the military should be recognized so that they can be recognized as they too can share this history. This information will become the key to keeping the Buffalo Soldiers legacy alive. Information of the Buffalo Soldiers who lived in the 1800's is virtually non existent, and the information on the Buffalo Soldiers who served during the 1930s and 1940s is extremely limited. Therefore it is critical that this information be documented as soon as possible. Further, there are no books written on Negroes who resided in the Leavenworth area during the 1800s and 1900s. It is recommended that research be conducted in this area to give a better perspective on the Buffalo Soldiers' contributions to the Leavenworth community.

FIGURES



Figure 1
Buffalo Soldiers Crest



REMOUNT TRAINING

The recent infiltration of new men and green horses into the Tenth Cavalry has caused many an hour to be spent in training "Remounts," which is cavalry troopers' language for horses not ridden before. In the picture directly below we see a snappy-looking "Combat Team" composed of Sergeant Hall, Troop F, and "Frankie." The remounts shown elsewhere on this page will some day share the same affection as "Frankie" does in the heart of a trooper. In picture at left note the ludicrous expressions of anticipation as a trooper mounts a "doubtful prospect." At center, left, a lanky soldier on a new remount with ideas of his own shows superb control of the situation. At bottom left an unbroken remount is being worked on a longe. Bottom right: "Dis-mount without order!"

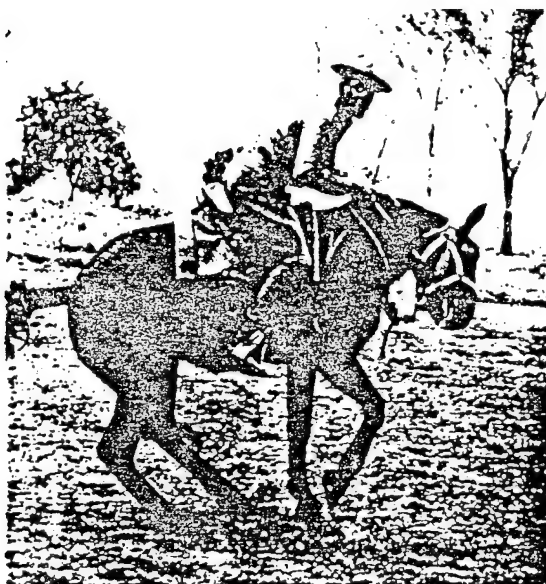


Figure 2
10th Cavalry Mounted

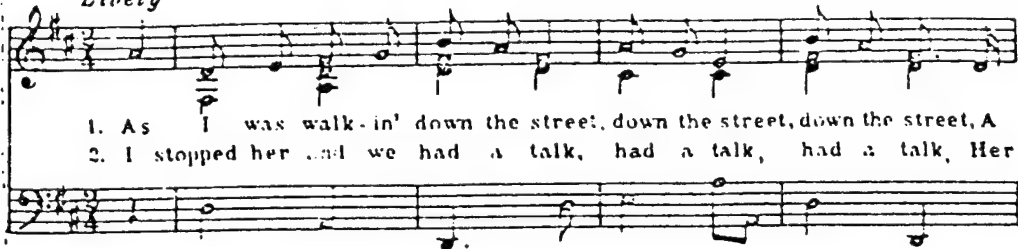
BUFFALO GALS

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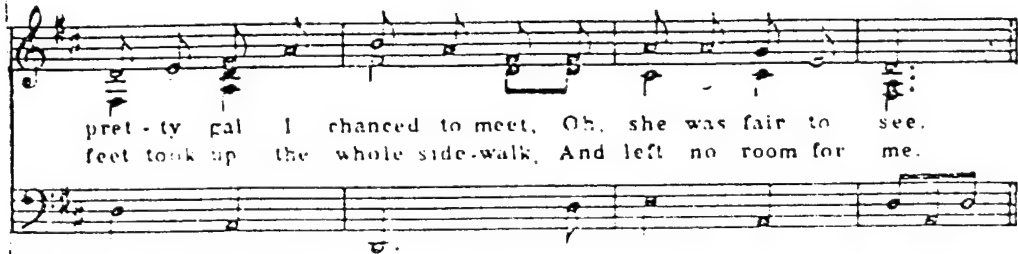
C. W.

COOL WHITE
Arr. by Ruth Heller

Lively

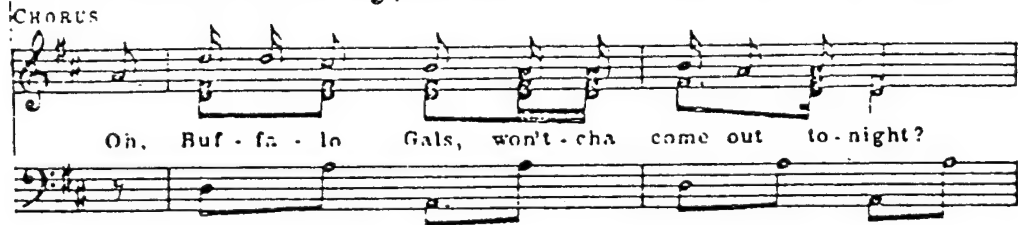


1. As I was walk-in' down the street, down the street, down the street, A
2. I stopped her and we had a talk, had a talk, had a talk, Her

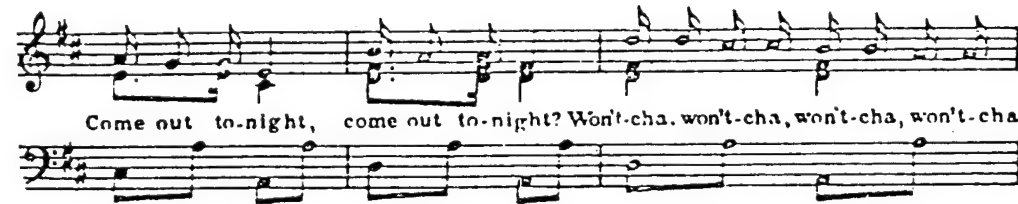


pret - ty gal I chanced to meet, Oh, she was fair to see.
feet took up the whole side-walk, And left no room for me.

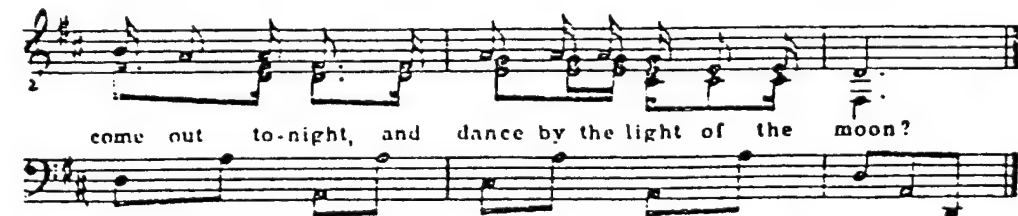
CHORUS



Oh, Buf - fa - lo Gals, won't - cha come out to - night?



Come out to - night, come out to - night? Won't - cha, won't - cha, won't - cha, won't - cha



come out to - night, and dance by the light of the moon?

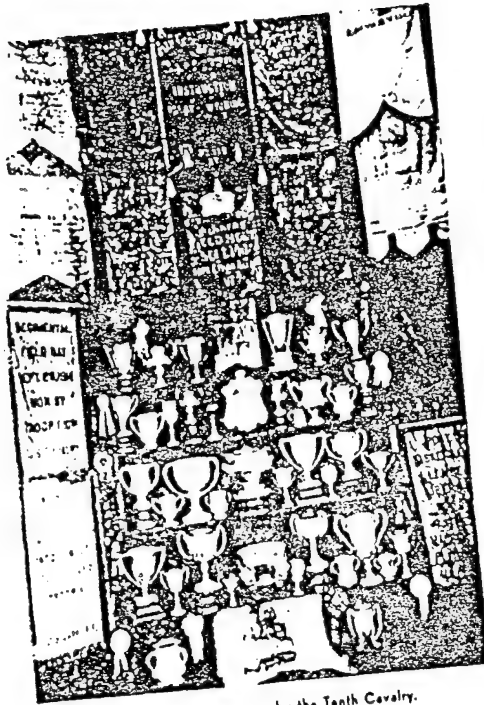
3. I asked her if she'd have a dance, have a dance, have a dance.
I thought that I might have a chance
To shake a foot with her.

4. We danced all night, and her heel kept a-rockin',
An' her toe kept a-knockin' an' her heel kept a rockin',
I danced with the gal with a hole in her stockin',
We danced by the light of the moon

Figure 3
"Buffalo Gal" Song

Sports

OF THE TENTH CAVALRY



Part of the trophies won by the Tenth Cavalry.

When the Tenth Cavalry moved from Leavenworth to Camp Funston, the Bisons, the regimental basketball team, had to cut out a half-dozen games. Schedule curtailment, however, did not interfere with their brilliant playing. Corporal William Gregory, writing of the season in the "Sports Review" section of the regimental paper, summed it up this way: "The scoring left nothing to be desired, though the defense sagged at times it was through the consistent playing of Powell Covington and Gregory, aided by the fine support of the hard-fighting Eddie Samuels, Sam Glenn, Bright and other members of the squad that the quintet closed the season on top in the win column." . . . Back of the team's success were Lieutenant James Tyler and Sergeant Joe Oliver, team managers, and Sergeants Irwin McHenry and Lee Graves, coaches, and Trainer Maudpin. . . . The Bisons played ten games, winning all but three.

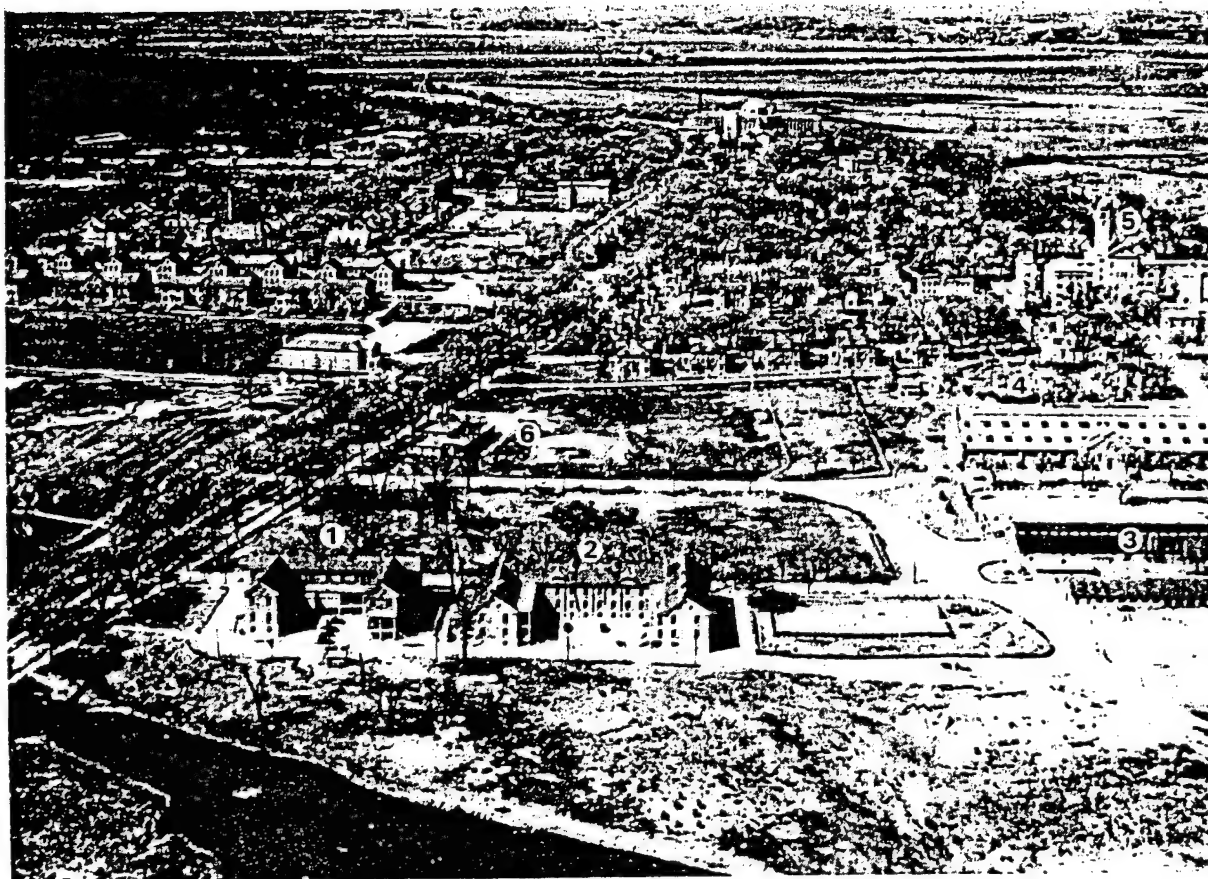
Bisons—Tenth Cavalry basketball team.



Baseball team (Headquarters and Service Troop).



Figure 4
Tenth in Football and Baseball Uniforms



Frontier Army Museum

(1) McNair Hall, (2) Funston Hall, (3) stables, (4) riding hall, (5) Command and General Staff School, and (6) 10th Cavalry service club and athletic fields

Figure 5
Picture of Where the Tenth Cavalry Resided at Ft. Leavenworth

BUFFALO SOLDIERS INTERED AT THE FORT LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY

NAME	RANK	UNIT	DOD	GR
ANDERSON, George H.	Pvt	9th Cav	10/05/1880	E-2776
ANDERSON, James H.	Pvt	10th Cav	05/25/1932	I-50
ARMFIELD, George	Pvt	10th Cav	02/14/1937	H-3292G
ARMSTRONG, William	Pvt	10th Cav	08/05/1867	H-3302
ASKEW, Kanni	Pvt	10th Cav	08/22/1887	E-2692
BAILEY, Guss	Sgt	9th Cav	11/02/1940	I-238
BAILEY, WALTER W.	Cpl	10th Cav	12/06/1932	I-81
BAKER, Robert	PFC	10th Cav	08/30/1934	I-117
BATY, Robert	Sgt	10th Cav	08/30/1936	I-179
BELL, William	Pvt	10th Cav	04/04/1940	I-213
BIRD, Matthew	Pvt	9th Cav	08/26/1896	G-3484
BLAKE, Petter	9th	Cav		E-2793
BLAND, R.E.	Mus	9th Cav	07/12/1887	G-3566
BROWN, Clarence L.	Cpl	10th Cav	08/08/1932	I-76
BROWN, John F.	Pvt	10th Cav	02/05/1937	I-188
BUCKNER, Herod	1 Sg	10th Cav	12/31/1942	C-2105
BYRD, Nathan		10th Cav		E-15
CARTER, W. H.	Mus	9th Cav	05/16/1889	G-3565
CLARKE, John H.	Pvt	10th Cav	10/25/1868	C-2023
COATES, Arther	Pvt	9th Cav	02/07/1969	H-146
COLLINS, Robert	Pvt	10th Cav	04/05/1888	E-2693
CONVIS, Joseph	Pvt	9th Cav	09/09/1877	E-2641
COX, John M.	Cpl	10th Cav	04/22/1969	L-283

Figure 6
List of Buffalo Soldiers Buried at Ft. Leavenworth Cemetary

DEVINE, Samuel	Pvt	9th Cav	07/26/1886	G-3552
DICKINSON, John E.	Pvt	10th Cav	04/11/1932	
DUNCAN, Austin	Cpl	10th Cav	04/25/1868	H-3314
FORD, Arthur	Pfc	10th Cav	08/07/1870	M-369
GARLINGTON, Taylor	Cpl	10th Cav	05/09/1865	M-403
GIBSON, Newman	Pvt	9th Cav	06/29/1888	G-3564
GREEN, Daniel	Pvt	9th Cav	05/05/1878	E-2644
GREEN, George	Pvt	10th Cav	08/01/1867	H-3290
GUNN, Ruth M.	Mech	10th Cav	20/12/1957	M-604
HAMMONDS, Isiah	Rec	10th Cav	03/28/1867	C-2063
HATCH, Edward	COL	9th Cav	04/11/1889	O-2204
HICKS, Willis	Pvt	10th Cav	06/24/1958	M-2542
HOLMES, Russell W.	Buglar	9th Cav	10/13/1956	M-14
HIGGINS, William B.	Sgt	10th Cav	03/18/1950	E-21
HILL, Joe	Cpl	10th Cav	11/02/1939	B-2292
HUNTINGTON, Sylvester	Pvt	10th Cav	01/15/1873	C-2055
JACKSON, Charles L.	Cpl	9th Cav	05/27/1949	E-2488C
JACKSON, James N.	Cpl	9th Cav	01/08/1937	H-3356C
JENKINS, Daniel	Pvt	9th Cav	12/31/1889	G-3568
JOHNSON, Lamar	Pfc	10th Cav	12/10/1937	G-3447A
JOHNSON, William V.	Pfc	10th Cav	07/05/1934	F-425
JONES, Charles	Pvt	9th Cav	12/09/1881	E-2772
JONES, John B.	1 Sgt	10th Cav	04/27/1941	B-2376
KAHOLOKULA, John H.	Cpl	9th Cav	01/25/1949	E-2736C
KELSEY, Edward	Pvt	9th Cav	11/17/1881	C-1975

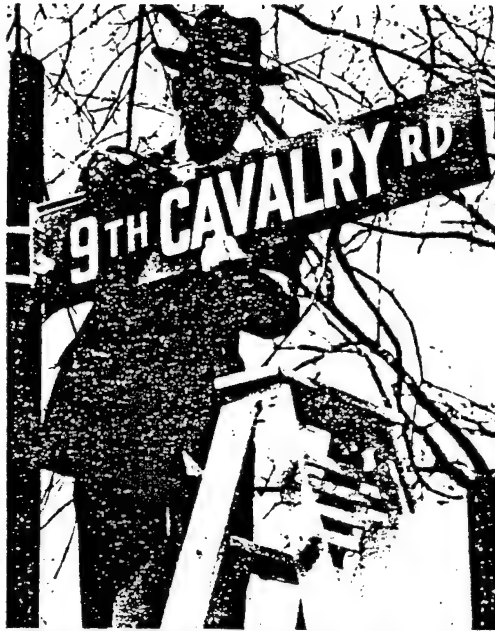
Figure 6 (Cont'd)

KNOX, Will	Sgt	10th Cav	07/27/1932	I-74
LEE, Fitz	Pvt	10th Cav	09/14/1899	G-3183
LEWIS, David	Pvt	9th Cav	11/02/1878	E-2646
LEWIS, Denis	Pvt	10th Cav	12/16/1931	I-68
LIVGELY, Virgil	Pvt	9th Cav	03/18/1890	B-2224
LIVINGSTON, John S.	Pvt	10th Cav	07/29/1939	B-2357
LOGAN, John	Pvt	10th Cav	08/02/1867	H-3282
LYNN, Vannie	Pfc	10th Cav	08/26/1936	I-178
MCCAMPBELL, George	Sgt	9th Cav	02/03/1888	G-3504
MORRIS, Freeman	Pfc	10th Cav	03/04/1955	M-113
MARTIN, Rufus	Buglar	9th Cav	08/28/1961	M-1871
MILLER, Finas M.	Cpl	10th Cav	03/01/1956	I-229N
MOSBY, Thomas	Pvt	9th Cav	05/12/1886	G-3551
NEAL, Burr	Pvt	10th Cav	05/31/1905	G-3510
MORRIS, Fisher E	Pvt	10th Cav	11/19/1934	F-422
NICHOLS, Richard		10th Cav		H-3304
NOLAN, Howard	Sgt	9th Cav		G-3563
PATTERSON, Carl	Pvt	9th Cav	08/09/1940	I-233
PAULEY, C.J.	Pvt	9th Cav	08/15/1897	G-3514
PORTER, C.C.	Pvt	10th Cav	12/26/1905	G-3511
RICHARDSON, William	Pvt	9th Cav	11/17/1881	C-1976
SCOTT, Beverly	Pvt	10th Cav	03/16/1873	G-3042
SMITH, Bruce	Pvt	10th Cav	12/09/1950	H-119
SMITH, John	Pvt	10th Cav	07/09/1881	G-3508
SWANN, Enos	Pvt	10th Cav	12/25/1938	B-2333

Figure 6 (Cont'd)

TAPER, Charles	Q Sgt	10th Cav	01/17/1907	G-3512
TASCO, Wilton D.		10th Cav	12/30/1950	E-77
TAYLOR, Charles	Pvt	10th Cav	02/15/1928	I-35
THOMAS, Charles	Pvt	10th Cav	06/02/1868	C-1924
THOMAS, Henry	Pvt	10th Cav	10/11/1868	C-1927
TOLER, Floyd	Cpl	10th Cav	05/15/1950	B-614A
TUCKER, Joseph H.	Farr	9th Cav	04/27/1881	E-2779
TURNBULL, Resse	Pvt	9th Cav	01/09/1880	E-2648
VASS, Charley	Pvt	10th Cav	11/17/1902	G-3487
WALTERS, Joseph	Trum	9th Cav	01/10/1882	H-3377
WARREN, Daniel	Sadd	9th Cav	06/19/1904	G-3249
WASHINGTON, Elliott	Sgt	10th Cav	06/19/1886	E-2688
WESLEY, Augustus	Pvt	10th Cav	08/02/1867	H-3284
WHITE, Hamilton	Pvt	9th Cav	09/08/1871	E-2796
WINGFIELD, William	Sadd	9th Cav	06/28/1938	B-2314
WILSON, Amos	Pvt	9th Cav	08/29/1877	E-1492
WILSON, Jacob D.	Pvt	9th Cav	02/08/1891	G-3573
WOODS, Eugene	Cpl	9th Cav	12/30/1889	G-3567

Figure 6 (Cont'd)



South Road gets a new name as Brigadier General William C. Louisell, assistant commandant of the Command and General Staff College, officially dedicates it to the fighting men of the 9th Cavalry in ceremonies Friday.



The executive secretary of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Association, Lieutenant (Ret.) Albert Bly, joins in the Black History Month celebration by renaming North Road for the men of the 10th Cavalry Friday. (U.S. Army Photos)



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Published In the Interest of Personnel at Ft. Leavenworth

Figure 7
Picture of the Streets Names After the 9th and 10th Cavalry

Public Law 102-331
102d Congress

Joint Resolution

To designate July 28, 1992, as "Buffalo Soldiers Day".

Whereas the Congress responded to the brave Civil War service of more than 180,000 African-American troops by voting on July 28, 1866, to create 6 regular Army regiments composed of African-American enlisted soldiers;

Whereas the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments were among those regiments, which consisted of veterans of the Civil War and free men of color;

Whereas the 9th Cavalry was stationed at Greenville, Louisiana, and the 10th Cavalry was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, from where they played a key role in the history of the American West, guarding wagon trains, surveying roads, building forts, and protecting settlers;

Whereas after a battle in 1867 near Fort Hays, Kansas, Cheyenne warriors remarked that the African-American soldiers fought as fiercely as buffaloes, and the cavalry thereafter adopted the name "Buffalo Soldiers" as a badge of honor;

Whereas the Buffalo soldiers were an important part of American history and served the United States in many States and Nations, including Arizona, California, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Cuba, Mexico, and the Philippines;

Whereas the Buffalo soldiers' military heroics included serving with Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War, and helping to capture Billy the Kid and Pancho Villa;

Whereas some Buffalo Soldiers became famous African-American military officers, including Henry Flipper, Charles Young, and Benjamin Davis;

Whereas the Buffalo soldiers served with pride and maintained high morale and the lowest desertion rate in the Army, despite receiving the worst equipment and food, living in inadequate housing, and being subjected to discrimination;

Whereas the Buffalo Soldiers were repeatedly cited for heroism and dedication to duty, including numerous campaign and unit citations, as well as 22 individual Congressional Medals of Honor;

Whereas the Buffalo Soldiers served in the highest tradition of the United States military, but still have not been given their proper place in American History.

Whereas General Collin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recognized this omission in 1982 while serving as Deputy Commander at Fort Leavenworth, and set in motion efforts to construct a monument to these forgotten heroes;

Figure 8

Public Law 102-331 - 3 Aug 1992

Whereas a monument to the buffalo Soldiers will be dedicated at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in July 1992, on a site where Buffalo Soldiers camped during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; and
Whereas the Buffalo Soldier Monument will appropriately recognize the great sacrifices and outstanding performance of the Buffalo Soldiers and their contributions to our Nation: Now, therefore, be it.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That July 28, 1992, is designated as "Buffalo Soldiers Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Approved August 3, 1992.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY - S.J. Res.92:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Vol. 137 (1992): June 26, considered and passed Senate

Vol. 138 (1992): July 24, considered and passed House.

Figure 8 (Cont'd)



Figure 9
Buffalo Soldier Monument

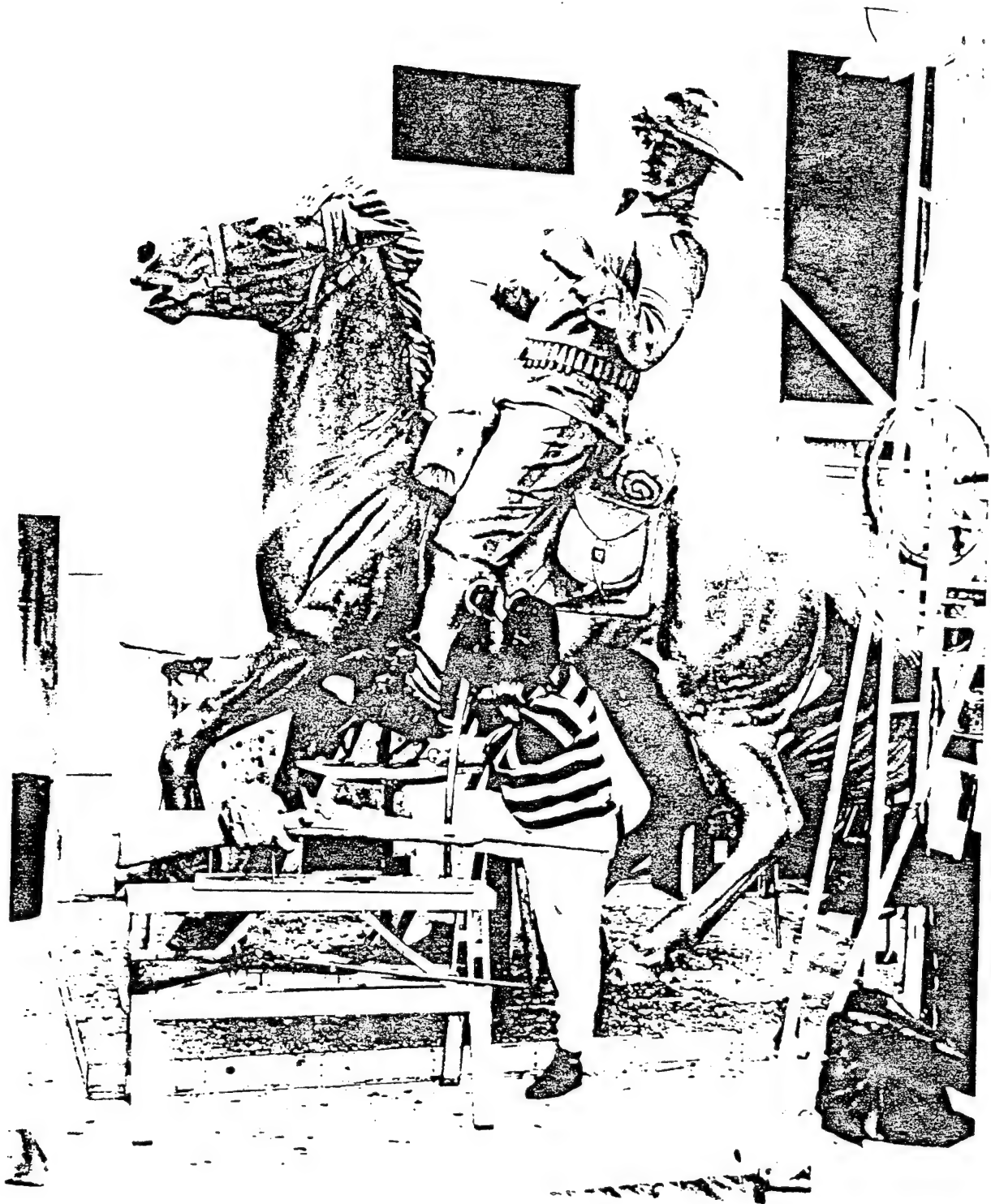


Figure 10
Buffalo Soldier Statue with Sculpture

22 April, 1994

BUFFALO SOLDIERS STAMP DAY

THIS PROCLAMATION DESIGNATES APRIL 22, 1994 AS BUFFALO SOLDIERS STAMP DAY, COMMEMORATING THE DEDICATION OF A UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE STAMP HONORING THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS.

WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldiers arrived at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and departed in 1941. These soldiers played key roles in the expansion of the American West by maintaining order, protection, and railway lines, building forts and protecting settlers.

WHEREAS, Col. Hatch, the first commander, 9th Cavalry soldier, Pvt. Fitz Lee, one of the five Buffalo Soldiers who received the Medal of Honor during the Spanish American War, and more than ninety-five other Buffalo Soldiers are buried at the Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldier Monument was dedicated July 22, 1992 and placed under the stewardship of Fort Leavenworth.

WHEREAS, Fort Leavenworth is proud to host the United States Postal Service on the first-day pictorial cancellation of the Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Stamp, released for sale on April 22, 1994, which further recognized the Buffalo Soldiers for their contributions and selfless service to our great nation.

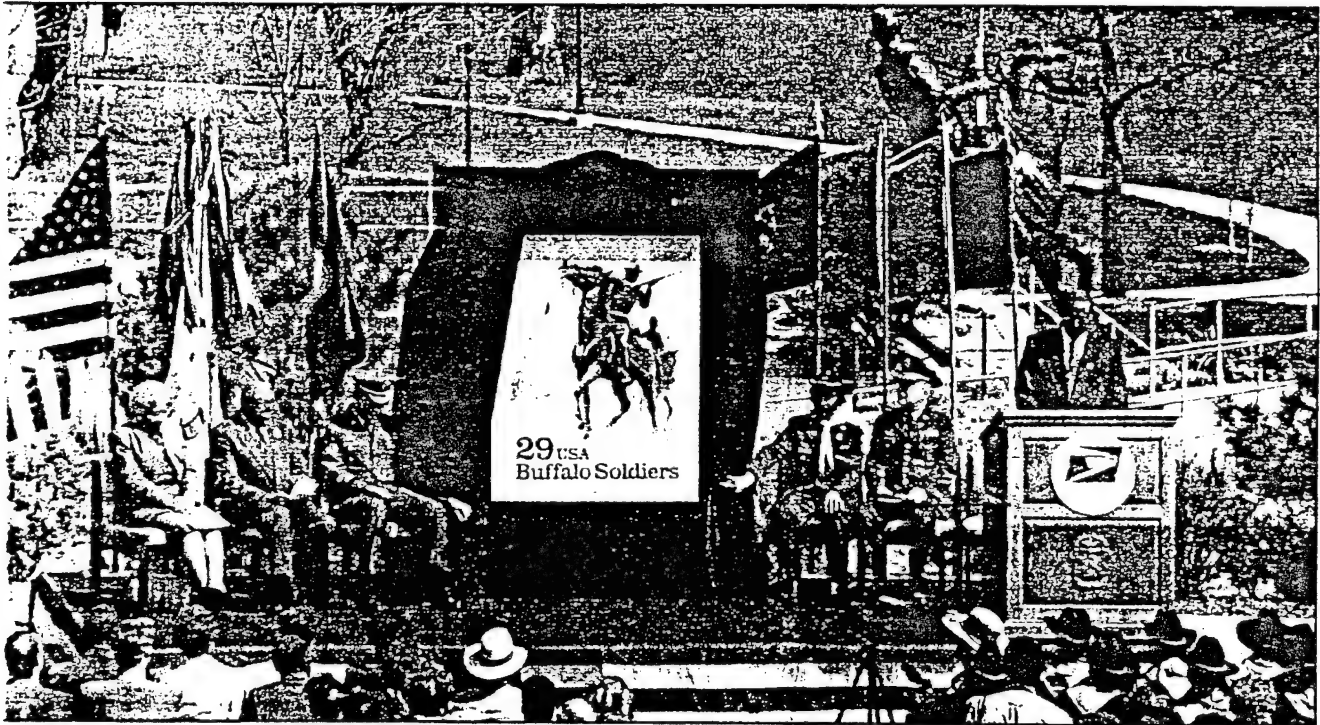
NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Commanding General, Combined Arms Command and Fort Leavenworth; that April 22, 1994 is designated as "Buffalo Soldiers Stamp Day," in recognition of the Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Stamp and the forgotten heroes, the Buffalo Soldiers, who gallantly served our Army during peace, crisis, conflict and war.

JOHN E. MILLER
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Figure 11
Buffalo Soldiers Stamp Proclamation

Leavenworth, Kansas

A stamp of honor



Times photos/Peggy Blair

The Buffalo Soldier Stamp dedication ceremony was held beneath a perfect spring sky this morning near the Buffalo Soldier monument at Fort Leavenworth. About 2,500 people turned out to watch the ceremony.

Buffalo Soldiers tribute unveiled

Figure 12
Picture of Stamp Ceremony

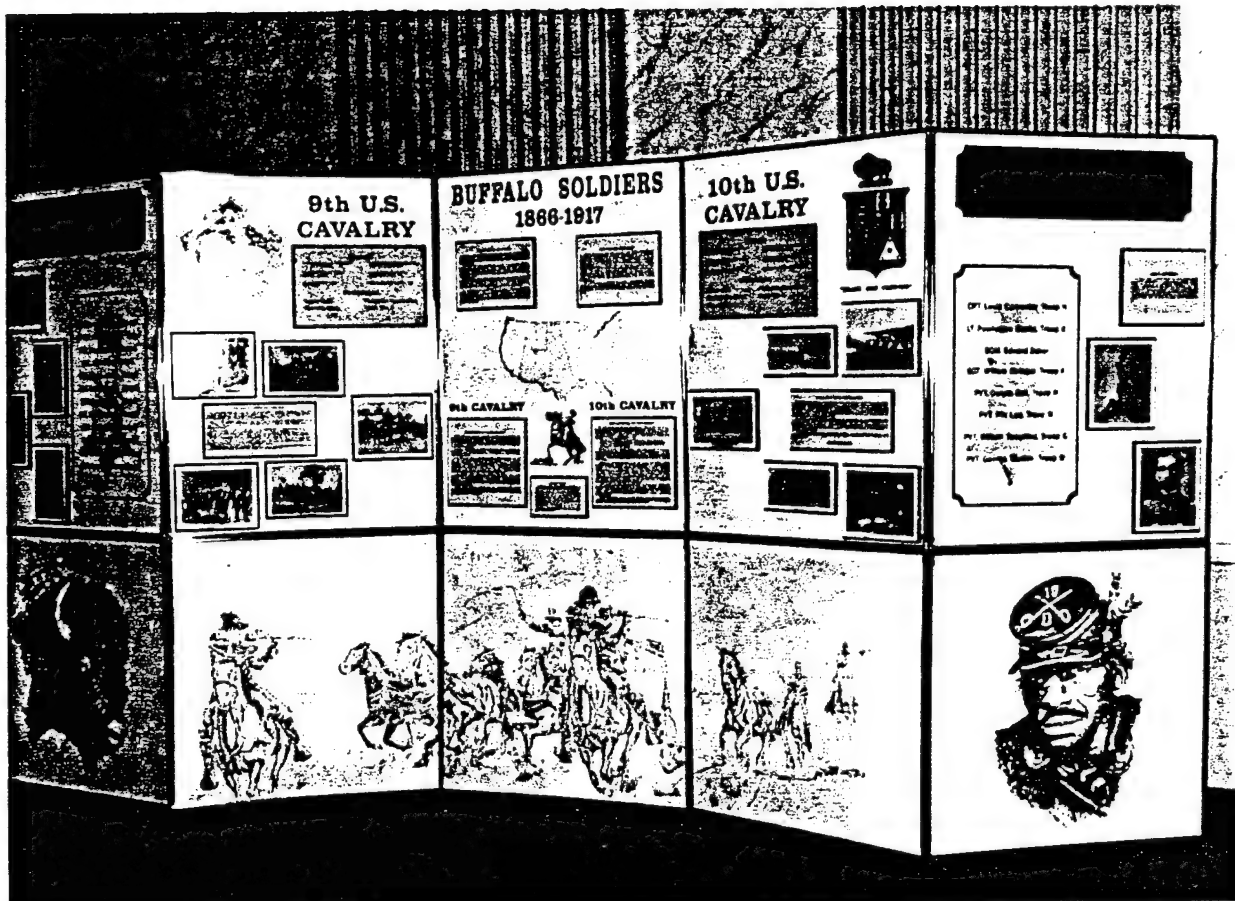


Figure 13
Traveling Exhibit

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Interviews

CDR Carlton Philphot (Ret), Chairman of the Buffalo Soldier's Monument Committee.

Mrs. Phyllis Smith, a local Historian in Leavenworth. She also was a member of the Buffalo Soldier's Monument Committee.

Mr. George Knapp owner of the Buffalo Soldier's book store in Leavenworth, and also the author of the book Buffalo Soldiers at FT Leavenworth, 1930 and 1940s.

Interviews with members of the 10th Cavalry that still reside in the local area.

Mr. James Madison, President Greater Kansas City, Leavenworth Area. National 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association Chapter

Mrs. Sybil Barnes wife of George Barnes FT Leavenworth 1930 - 1940s, and author of the book "I Remember the Buffalo Soldiers"

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